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EARLY SHREWSBURY: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEFINITION IN 1975

By M. O. H. CARVER

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I: PURPOSE AND METHOD

THE purpose of this paper is to present a catalogue, synthesis, and evaluation of archaeological evidence from the site of Shrewsbury.¹ In common with others who have attempted to assemble such a corpus, I have found my confidence diminishing as the task proceeded – eventually disappearing altogether. I have, however, felt the result to be worth publishing for two principal reasons: first, it provides one approach to urban archaeology that might have some application elsewhere; secondly, it gives an interim statement on which future plans for the investigation and protection of the early town can be based. I have tried, in short, to suggest a procedure for the particular brand of urban historical research which is carried out in the name of ‘rescue’ and to indicate the strengths and limitations, the priorities and emergencies of the site of Shrewsbury as a source of archaeological evidence.

The majority of England’s shire towns have known little respite from the intensive use of their sites for more than 1,000 years. That makes them into archives of archaeological information of exceptional value, culture succeeding culture with greater or lesser change and greater or lesser influence from outside. At the same time the process is extremely damaging: the more intensely the site has been used, the richer on the one hand is the potential sequence and the more surely on the other do succeeding cultures interfere with, and destroy each other. There is a more optimistic view prevalent among many clients, and even some practitioners, of medieval archaeology: that deposits necessarily accumulate with age and that depth has some linear relationship with antiquity. In reality the credit-debit balance between information-yield and disturbance on any urban site with prolonged occupation is dependent to a large degree on the composition and morphology of the natural soil. High, soft sites such as Shrewsbury may experience a gradual lowering of the ground level as it is exploited. In other sites deposits may accumulate to a depth of many metres. In addition such ancient deposits as do survive need not be an ‘occupation sequence’ but are often quite incoherent – the result of a single tipping operation, containing the debris from many periods.² Roman and medieval urban man was not only capable of moving great quantities of earth for defensive purposes; he was also

¹I am grateful to Miss J. Wills, who compiled the index from which the catalogue was developed, and to P. A. Barker, A. M. Carr, Miss L. F. Chitty, P. J. Clarke, Miss J. Crickmore, R. E. James, W. E. Jenks, J. B. Lawson, M. D. Pitman, Mrs. Mary de Saulles, G. S. G. Toms, and A. Wharton, all of whom supplied me with information. I am particularly grateful to Mr. Carr, of Shrewsbury Public Library, and to Miss Chitty and Mr. Lawson for a great deal of creative discussion. I should like to thank Mr. R. Poulton for his fluxgate gradiometer survey and Mr. S. Warren for his analysis of the Old St. Chad’s pin. I am also grateful to Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, Granada Group Ltd., Federated Homes Ltd., A. Kenneth Saint, and Mason, Owen & Partners, for permission to undertake trial excavations. I wish to thank Philip Clarke, Elaine Morris, John Sawle, Alan Wharton, and Jan Wills, members of the former Shrewsbury Archaeological Unit, for their enthusiasm and perseverance during a difficult and often discouraging programme. Lastly I should like to offer thanks to the members of the Shrewsbury Rescue Archaeology Committee, to P. A. Barker and Dr. Graham Webster of WEMRAC, and to B. K. Davison and A. Fleming of the Department of the Environment, for their advice and support during the unit’s existence.

²e.g. the sequence outside the town wall at Pride Hill, Shrews.: Carver (forthcoming).

given to levelling, terracing, and excavating soft deposits deeply to secure adequate foundations for ordinary residential purposes. The latter activity, an essential prerequisite to the erection of a stone building, is well documented.³ Nor would he normally be content to live on top of his own midden heap, any more than was his country cousin.⁴

When considering, therefore, the urgency of archaeological recording in a medieval town that is being destroyed by modern development, one should remember that the destructive process has been going on at least since the erection of the town's first stone buildings, and that within the site, in consequence, deposits of very different value remain. To seek out the deposits which are occupational, and least disturbed, is to identify those which have the greatest potential value for the archaeologist.

The first purpose of this paper, therefore, has been to collect together pieces of evidence for the composition and levels of the archaeological deposits and to attempt an assessment of their quality. This procedure, an extension of the relative-depth mapping carried out for the recent archaeological survey of the city of London,⁵ was in fact recommended for Shrewsbury by Lily Chitty in 1951.⁶ I have tried to take advantage of a small search area to locate promising deposits specifically. The results as a whole were only made possible by a season of trial excavation.

It will be seen, in corollary, that this is an assessment of archaeological deposits on their own merits, carried out initially without following the received doctrine of the town's history. There is no question of standing aloof from documents as primary sources, but I have been reluctant to use the models which documentary historians have constructed to predict the archaeology and thereby to risk circular argument. Medieval archaeology, during its long apprenticeship to the documentary historian, has got into the habit of being told to dig where the results are likely to be of 'historical' significance – in other words where some activity is indicated by documents. That may be misleading and is often less useful than following the dictates of physical prospecting. An archaeologist excavating the site of a documented monument (a church for example) may spend much effort in its interpretation so as to complement the record, even though the deposit may in fact be unusable. Conversely a site unknown to documents (a pond for example) may be able to supply cultural and ecological information of the highest quality. A truly 'historical' model, to be worthy of the name, will use both material and written evidence, but it has a right also to expect its witnesses to be independent.

Shrewsbury has had many historians (p. 262) and has often been discussed in detail in these *Transactions*. Such archaeological evidence as has been called, however, has been used rather uncritically. It is curious to see how some favourite topics for which there is only the vaguest evidence, such as the palace of Cynddylan at Pengwern or the course of the Severn, dominate the literature, while others – for example the medieval timber-framed buildings which represent perhaps Shrewsbury's richest heritage (pp. 247–8) – are virtually disregarded, although they are continually being dismantled under the eyes of the inhabitants. The debate about the town's origins in particular has been informed by little more than a species of antiquarian mysticism

³L. F. Salzman, *Building in Eng. down to 1540* (1967 edn.), chap. 5.

⁴M. Beresford and J. G. Hurst, *Deserted Medieval Villages* (1971), 99.

⁵M. Biddle and D. Hudson, *The Future of London's Past* (Worcester, 1973).

⁶Chitty (1951). The bibliography on pp. 261–3 contains the sources of the catalogue.

seasoned with so-called 'topographical' studies – studies which must always be suspect in light of the changes which the topography has undergone (pp. 246–7).

The second main purpose of this paper has therefore been to review the archaeological evidence for the early town and to show that it rarely supports, and sometimes contradicts, many of the accepted ideas. The archaeological model, flimsy as it is, would not admit a Roman occupation on the site,⁷ or a British palace, British settlement,⁸ Anglo-Saxon defences,⁹ an Anglo-Saxon nuclear settlement,¹⁰ or an 'inner' 12th-century town wall.¹¹ We cannot even be certain which part of the peninsula, if any, was urban by the 12th century. This is not to say that all Shrewsbury's historians have been wrong, but that, from the archaeological point of view, there is much to discover and nearly everything still to confirm.

Types of Evidence

Three types of evidence have been catalogued here and are summarized in the maps. They are classed as deposits, structures, and finds. The first type, deposits, refers to any information which relates to the ancient land surface and how material has been added to or removed from it; all the deposit evidence is gathered in section A of the catalogue. Structures comprise those that remain, those that have been excavated, and those that have been seen during building operations ('observations'). Extant structures are not catalogued but the maps have relied on the Department of the Environment's *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest*. To these have been added a group of structures whose medieval existence is inferred from documentary references or the pattern of named streets. These 'suspected sites' have been taken from the work of the Shrewsbury librarian J. L. Hobbs (Hobbs, 1954) and from Mr. J. T. Smith's survey and subsequent analysis carried out in the 1950s (Smith, 1953). Finds are mainly those recovered from unrecorded or partly recorded contexts during building works, though certain early finds recovered out of context during controlled excavations are also treated as 'chance finds'.

An attempt has been made to recover the early topography of the town in plan and profile using the deposit evidence (fig. 26). Structure and find evidence has been plotted by period, so far as that is known, to produce the distribution maps (figs. 25–8). The catalogue entries have not been accepted at face value. Undisturbed finds are those whose provenance is reasonably certain; an undisturbed deposit means one whose strata should be original and not re-used for dumping or levelling. In each of the maps some attempt is made to distinguish between disturbed and undisturbed material.

Sources of Evidence

The major sources for all types of evidence were the local collections of archaeological notes, transactions, catalogues, news letters and scrapbooks. Shrewsbury is particularly fortunate in the carefully maintained and indexed local records in its public library. The Borough Museums were also searched, and some of the material they contained is

⁷*Shrewsbury: Where Town and Country Meet* (Shrews. District Council [1974]).

⁸Owen and Blakeway, i, chap. 1; Leighton (1881), 101–2.

⁹Assumed by C. A. Raleigh Radford, 'The Medieval Defences of Shrews.', *T.S.A.S.* lvi. 15; Smith (1953), 29; *et al.*

¹⁰Assumed by most commentators.

¹¹Proposed by the Revd. C. H. Drinkwater, 'The Inner Town Wall of Shrews.', *T.S.A.S.* vi. 257. Endorsed by a number of observers subsequently; E 117.

here published for the first time (Appendix II). Miss Chitty's paper (Chitty, 1951) is the basis for the prehistoric section; it has been instrumental in initiating the serious archaeological study of the town as a whole, and the present catalogue is really only an extension of hers into the medieval period. Mr. J. T. Smith's thesis (Smith, 1953) provides a useful basis for the discussion of much of the evidence for all periods as well as providing a fundamental list of extant (or formerly extant) medieval buildings. The Department of the Environment's list (D.o.E., 1972), already mentioned, extends Smith's list beyond the 17th century. A catalogue of early-medieval and medieval finds has not previously been attempted but the present one owes much to the two authors just mentioned and to Mr. P. A. Barker, who systematically recorded and published many of the finds as they were made in the 1960s and collected others for his thesis (Barker, 1970). Mr. Barker also carried out the excavations at Roushill in 1959 (Barker, 1961) which, with those of J. Nurse (Nurse, 1890) and Messrs. W. E. Jenks and G. S. G. Toms (Carver, forthcoming), are the only controlled excavations to have been carried out in the town.

A further principal source of evidence is comprised in the trial excavations carried out by the Shrewsbury Archaeological Unit during its short life from October 1974 to April 1975. The Unit was set up with the object of stemming a series of unrecorded destructions of sites, which had begun after the war and reached serious proportions during the 1960s. By 1974 many of the more promising deposits had already disappeared or been damaged virtually without record, including one on College Hill (D 3) and the new developments at the Post Office (E 39) and Shirehall sites. The unit's work began with a survey of the impending damage to those sites that remained and a rapid appreciation of the archaeological potential;¹² it continued with a policy of site selection based on trial excavation. Sixty-one sites were located where damage to archaeological material was expected, of which 48 contained standing buildings. Of 11 sites available for excavation, 5 were tested by trial excavation, but none of the results was sufficiently promising to attract funds for their total excavation during the financial year 1975-6. On the other hand the results from the investigation of the standing buildings were very encouraging. The majority of those inspected proved to contain early structures, even where these were not expected, and total recording was carried out at Pride Hill Chambers and 1 High Street. In the general context of the West Midlands the priorities adopted for Shrewsbury were therefore the recording of its threatened buildings. The results of the trial excavations are summarized in Appendix I.

Many classes of evidence have not been assessed. The primary documents relating to Shrewsbury have not been searched, and these, particularly those held at the Shropshire Record Office, are in urgent need of a modern calendar, not only for the intrinsic information that they contain but for the guidance they have for archaeology. Other primary documentary sources, such as the street names and place-names, may now benefit from modern scholarship. The Anglo-Saxon name of the town itself, *Scrobbesbyrig*, and its degeneration into *Salop*, bear detailed examination,¹³ and the

¹²Published in popular form as M. O. H. Carver and J. Wills, *Shrewsbury: the Buried Past* (Shrews. 1974).

¹³The first element is more plausibly a personal name, Scrobb, than a description of the terrain. It might be profitable, as Mr. J. B. Lawson has suggested, to track this name in later genealogies, such as that of the Scroop fam.

names ending in -ham, notably Coleham, which have been assumed to be early Anglo-Saxon in origin, need to be tested for the *hām-hamm* distinction, as has been done for other places in England. From its situation Coleham at least would be consistent with a *hamm* derivation; that need not imply an early settlement, and the same may be true of Romaldsham.¹⁴ The Shrewsbury mint has yet to be systematically analysed, although numbers of its coins have been published.¹⁵ Particularly interesting would be a knowledge of the find-spots of coins bearing the Shrewsbury mint mark, although that could not be isolated from a general study of the deposition circumstances of other coins of the period.¹⁶ No Anglo-Saxon pennies at present in the Borough Museum, with the exception of the hoard of those of Edward the Elder (D 2), are certainly from Shrewsbury itself. Another fruitful analysis of the Shrewsbury coins would be that of the moneyers' names. Where that has been done, as part of a more general survey, for those of Edgar and of later reigns, it was found that the names were, with two exceptions, Anglo-Saxon in origin; thus Hobbs's conclusion on the street names – that Welsh influence at an early date is slight or has not been detected – was reinforced.¹⁷

With the coins bearing the Shrewsbury mint mark comes a range of other unprovenanced artifacts which were less certainly associated with the town. In some cases, such as the coin of Coenwulf of Mercia (796–821), the *styca* of Aethelred of Northumbria (840–844), and the coins of St. Edmund (d. 869) and the Northumbrian Vikings, formerly in the Borough Museum,¹⁸ the provenance is sufficiently uncertain for the artifacts to be left out altogether. The unprovenanced prehistoric material listed by Miss Chitty (B 11–15) has been included for the sake of completeness. Every 'chance find' may of course be a secondary deposition, and it is likely that much, if not all, of the Roman material falls into that category. The finds of medieval masonry present a special problem. Such a collection as that in the rockery at Swan Hill Court (E 60) can hardly be expected to have emerged with innocence after a hundred years of antiquarian activity. A scrapbook (SPL, accession 4107, p. 56) newspaper cutting describes the travels of a sculptured stone frieze originally thought to have come from the abbey, thence to have been mounted on English Bridge, finally coming to rest in the garden of Mr. Withers at Swan Hill. The large perpendicular window in the garden of 26 Belle Vue Gardens, which ought to be in a slightly different class if only for its size, need not have come from near-by. Both Swan Hill Court and Belle Vue Gardens were the homes of antiquaries, and the Ordnance Survey map (OS, 1965) records the

¹⁴See J. McN. Dodgson, 'Place-names from *hām*, distinguished from *hamm* names in relation to the settlement of Kent, Surrey and Sussex', *Anglo-Saxon Eng.* ii (1973), 1–50. Prof. Bruce Dickens is quoted as suggesting that Coleham is more probably of the *hamm* derivation: Smith (1953), 41. Shrops. place-names are being studied by Mrs. Margaret Gelling.

¹⁵See *Sylloge of Coins of the Brit. Isles* (1958–, in progress).

¹⁶Brit. pre-Conquest coin hoards containing coins of the Shrews. mint are all found to the west: Chester, c. 970, Derrykeevan (co. Armagh, Irel.), c. 950, Portree (Isle of Skye), c. 950, and Wedmore (Som.), c. 1050. Post-Conquest find-spots are to the east. See J. D. A. Thompson, *An Inventory of Brit. Coin Hoards* (1956). The significance of the apparent shift from west to east must await analysis of all mint distributions in the light of Scandinavian disposal practices. The present result, from considering a single mint, may be fortuitous.

¹⁷O. von Feilitzen and C. Blunt, 'Personal names on the Coinage of Edgar', *Eng. before the Conquest: Studies in Primary Sources presented to Dorothy Whitelock*, ed. P. Clemoes and Kathleen Hughes (1971), 183–214; Veronica J. Smart, 'Moneyers of the Late Anglo-Saxon Coinage, 973–1016', *Commentationes de Nummis Saeculorum IX–XI in Suecia Repertis*, ii (Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademiens Handlingar, Antikvariska Serien, xix; Stockholm, 1968), 191–276.

¹⁸A. J. H. Gunstone, *Ancient Brit., Anglo-Saxon and Norman Coins in Midlands Museums* (Sylloge of Coins of the Brit. Isles, xvii; Oxford U.P. 1971).

movement of even larger structures: the Porch of Rowley's House to Abbey Gardens, and the Shoemakers' Arbour from Kingsland to the Quarry.

Finally it should be acknowledged that Shrewsbury's extant buildings have received rather peremptory treatment here. That must be excused on the ground that J. T. Smith's work, now being carried on by P. J. Clarke, will in time produce a detailed sequence distribution of architectural types which will bring its own much needed 'definition' to this class of evidence.

Chronological Scheme

No prehistoric material has been found which has not been noticed by Miss Chitty, either in her 1951 catalogue or subsequently. Nevertheless it was thought worthwhile to publish a new list for the sake of completeness, and because it is that material which serves to define Shrewsbury as an original settlement of the Middle Ages. The search area chosen for each period is sufficiently large to identify the nucleus of any major settlement there might be. The periods chosen are those for which the identification of artifacts can be reliably made but, broad as these are, there has still been confusion between, for example, Roman and Anglo-Saxon pottery (C 13, D 10). In the present state of knowledge it is possible to group medieval pottery only as (1) 10th-12th centuries, (2) 13th-14th centuries, or (3) 15th – early-17th centuries; moreover, since the distinction between groups (2) and (3) is by no means as clear as that between (1) and (2), only two periods have been mapped – 'early medieval', characterized by group (1), and 'medieval' for the remainder. The post-Roman period to the 10th century is represented only by the Old St. Chad's pin (D 7); it is therefore unmapped. Our inability to recognize the period anywhere in the area, however, hardly allows a negative conclusion to be drawn.

The first map of Shrewsbury is that made for Lord Burghley (*temp.* Elizabeth I) which was followed shortly by Speed's (1610) and a fine series of later maps.¹⁹ These, together with the distribution of a rich legacy of architecture from the post-medieval period and later, will allow an accurate portrait of the evolving town to be drawn.

It is implicit in the title of the present paper that the 'definition' given here is expected to change – as salvage records are made, as excavations are carried out, and as more thorough workers than I discover, in the wealth of secondary documentation, more evidence of past and forgotten discoveries.

II: CATALOGUE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

Entries with an asterisk are not shown on the maps.

A *Site Composition* (fig. 26).

Search Area: SJ E 48–51 N 11–14.

1* Abbey Foregate, 164; SJ 5010 1235; natural ground 1 ft. below ground level; no surviving medieval deposit: observation in 1975 by SAU during construction of pipe trench.

¹⁹Conveniently collected and published in *Old Maps of Shrewsbury* ed. D. J. Pannett and B. S. Trinder (Field Studies Council [1975]).

- 2 Austin Friars; SJ 4888 1273; build-up implied by the name 'Muckholes' at exit point of medieval drain; report of 1845 describes exit of common sewers here; foundations of Morris's bakery sank because of poor condition of ground *TSAS* 46 (1931-32), 51-7; Hobbs (1954), 77.
- 3* Austin Friars; SJ 487 126; wall of (?) refectory of friary carried down 16 ft. below 20th-century level: *TSAS* 46 (1931-32), 53.
- 4* Austin Friars; SJ 486 125; live red sandstone of good quality lying a few feet below the contemporary surface, found during the construction of a drain for the baths in 1894 or thereabouts: *SPL* 4106 (1894), 5.
- 5* Barker Street; SJ 489 125; (?) medieval pottery 2 ft. 6 ins. below contemporary surface: **E 8.**
- 6* Castle Foregate; near SJ 494 131; hoard of Anglo-Saxon pennies about one yard below surface: **D 2.**
- 7 Castle Foregate; SJ 4939 1290; a 'large quantity of ground' removed from in front of the railway station; medieval finds 5 - 6 ft. below ground level and 3 ft. below foundations of an old house pulled down when the station was first built: *TSAS* 3S 3(1903), xxv.
- 8* Castle Foregate; SJ 494 129; deer horn found 5 ft. below the surface in 1896: Chitty (1951), 127.
- 9 Castle Gates; SJ 493 128; soil removed in 1825 and deposited in (a garden in) Quarry Place; ground here had previously been level with the (library): Chitty (1951), 127-8; Leighton (1881), 100.
- 10* Castle Street, 32; SJ 4934 1269; red-deer antler found in sand 10 ft. below surface in 1883: Chitty (1951), 128.
- 11 Castle Street, site of Raven Hotel; SJ 494 127; no finds earlier than 13th century; late layers lie directly on natural sand and gravel some 4 ft. below the level of the pavement of Castle Street: *SNL* 21(1963), 4.
- 12 Claremont; SJ 488 124; streets at the top of Claremont Hill lowered 'many feet': *TCSVFC* 5 (1910-12), 315.
- 13 Coleham Head; SJ 496 122; at least 5 ft. of made-up ground dating to 18th century and later; excavated by SAU in 1974; Coleham Head made up 5 ft. in 1794: *SNQ* 1(1886), 132.
- 14* Coton Island; SJ 49 13; an island in, or until, or before (or millenia before) the 15th century; Pintle Brook surviving as eastern loop: Speed (1610); Owen and Blakeway, i. 7; *TSAS* 11 (1887), 95; *TSAS* 2S 3 (1891), map between 46-7; *TCSVFC* 8 (1927-30), 59; *TSAS* 53 (1950), 242-250; Chitty (1951), 109; Hobbs (1954), 35-6, 82; *SNL* 41 (1971), 4; below, pp. 285-6.
- 15* The Dana; SJ 494 128; sand mould found during sewer excavations 20 ft. down; possibly for casting balls, but may be natural: *Catalogue* (1898), 107; Chitty (1951), 128.
- 16 Dogpole, 21; SJ 4938 1241; 2 periods of levelling down to natural 2 m. below surface (65.3 m. OD); no finds earlier than 13th century; excavations by SAU in 1974.
- 17 Dogpole, 22; SJ 4938 1238; 3 periods of post-medieval levelling onto natural at 1.5 m. below modern surface (65.9 m. OD): excavations by SAU in 1974.
- 18* Greenfields; SJ 495 139; prehistoric artifact 6 - 7 ft. down: **B 3.**
- 19 Gullet Passage; SJ 4910 1248; 'peat' encountered at 1.840 m. below street level: **E 22.**

- 20* Hanwood Road, Meole Brace; SJ 468 112; western part of brickworks showed blue (?) alluvial clay, dug to 6 ft., thence 15 ft. of peat at the bottom of which was exposed a large tree: **B 6**.
- 21 High Street; SJ 4926 1241; south end considerably lowered in 1789: *SNQ* 1(1886), 121; Hobbs (1954), 61.
- 22 High Street; SJ 4918 1248; on the excavation for foundations and building of the Shirehall (1783–5), a 'great deposit of something like manure' was discovered; the foundations were excavated to 19 ft. below street level without finding firm ground; the Shirehall was placed on concrete foundations 10 ft. thick to compensate for the bog: Owen and Blakeway, i. 34 n. 4; Pidgeon (1837), 115.
- 23* High Street; near SJ 4916 1246; skull of red deer, 3 boars' tusks, and an iron instrument recovered from 19 ft. below surface during excavations for the new Shirehall in 1834: Chitty (1951), 121; Smith (1953), 2.
- 24 High Street; SJ 4918 1248; when making extension to the Shirehall in 1881, the ground was excavated to a depth of 20 ft. without the 'original level' being reached; 16 ft. of 'bog' encountered; 'oak piles' discovered 15 ft. below contemporary road level: *TSAS* 9(1886), 394; *TSAS* 2S 3(1891), 55 n.; Hobbs (1954), 57.
- 25 High Street; near SJ 4918 1243; during excavations for the construction of Della Porta's; surface of (?) medieval pit 8 ft. below surface, surrounded by oak piles driven many feet into unstable ground; a chain (?) for tethering animals and a boat 10 – 12 ft. long recovered: Ward (1947), 11.
- 26 High Street; SJ 4915 1254; early-medieval and medieval pottery disturbed from pits during building operations in 1975: observation by SAU.
- 27* Longden Road; SJ 483 112; ridge taken down and ground built up to carry A 5 by-pass, burying Old Longden road: *TCSVFC* 16(1961–7), 65.
- 28 Mardol Head; SJ 491 125; medieval road surface 4 ft. 6 in. below contemporary surface: **E 30**.
- 29 Mardol Head; SJ 4911 1250; peat encountered ? ft. down in 1973: **E 29**.
- 30* Meole or Rea Brook; SJ 496 123; 'formerly joined the river near the present Technical College. The brook was diverted to Coleham Head in the late 18th century when this portion of the bridge was taken down and built up to its present level. The original level is seen in Merivale House which has the date 1601 upon it.': Hobbs (1954), 73.
- 31 Old St. Chad's; SJ 492 123; (Princess Street) widened c. 1794 removing the houses against St. Chad's churchyard; Milk Street widened in 1791; part of churchyard (and church) removed at the same time; human remains reburied in the Quarry: *SNQ* 1(1886), 127; *TSAS* 2S 2(1890), plan between 360–1; Hobbs (1954), 74.
- 32 Old St. Chad's; SJ 4915 1235; earth removed from the crypt, etc., during the 1889 excavations spread over part of the churchyard (probably the south-west) to level it: *TSAS* 2S 2(1890), 364.
- 33 Pride Hill; SJ 4928 1264; site of Barclays Bank; natural sand and gravel rising nearly to modern street level; all deposits removed leaving only truncated features of later medieval date: *TSAS* 57(1964), 267.
- 34 Pride Hill; SJ 492 126; site of Gas Board offices; truncated medieval pits in natural sand beneath cellars; no finds earlier than 13th century: **E 34**.

- 35 Pride Hill; SJ 4918 1259; 2 periods of levelling down to natural at 0.5 m. below modern ground surface (65 m. OD); top of early medieval pit approximately level with modern street surface: **E 43, 44.**
- 36 Pride Hill, Post Office site; near SJ 4926 1260; black oak from 'bog' 12 ft. below surface; medieval pottery from up to 10 ft. below surface; material recovered during excavations for Post Office foundations in 1875: *Proc. Soc. Ant.* 2S 7(1876), 94-6; *SSP* 1(1874-5), 189; Chitty (1951), 129; and see below, pp. 258-9, for summary and discussion.
- 37 Pride Hill, Post Office site; SJ 4928 1258; early (?) medieval pot from 15 ft. 9 ins. below surface in 1956: see **E 39.**
- 38* Pride Hill; near SJ 4916 1256; 'stone mortar' found at 46 Pride Hill, 8 ft. below surface: Chitty (1951), 122.
- 39 Pride Hill; SJ 491 125 and north-west; every house on the north-west from Castle Street to 7 Pride Hill cellared by 1912; two stories of cellars at 20 Pride Hill and others; many vaults within the hillside strip: *CNC* 10(1912), 19.
- 40* The Quarry; SJ 4868 1237; in use in 15th century: **E 122.**
- 41* Quarry, Greyfriars; SJ 493 121; *standelf* by or near Greyfriars (?) in use in 14th century: Owen and Blakeway, ii, 461.
- 42 Raven Meadows; SJ 4916 1263; 5 - 7 ft. of post-medieval make-up on inorganic alluvium: Carver (forthcoming).
- 43 River Severn; original or possible courses around Shrewsbury: Owen and Blakeway, i, 7; **A 13**; fig. 25; below, pp. 285-6.
- 44 St. Alkmund's Place; SJ 4925 1254; early medieval pit 6 ft. deep surviving surface 2½ ft. below modern street level: **D 11.**
- 45 St. Julian's Friars; SJ 4943 1227; natural clay below 2 m. of cultivation soil and rubble of 13th century and later: **E 53.**
- 46 St. Mary's Water Lane; SJ 494 126; profile through site of friary in 1973 indicated substantial build-up of 18th-20th-centuries deposits over natural silt: **E 58.**
- 47 School Gardens; SJ 4935 1275; the hill in front of the school (now a library) lowered to its present level and Rotton Row (former name of School Gardens) closed in 1825-7; Hobbs (1954), 92; **A 9** seems to refer to the same incident.
- 48* Shoplatch; SJ 4898 1246; corner by the George Inn altered and widened about 1820-30: Hobbs (1954), 105.
- 49 The Square; SJ 4915 1248; a boring made in 1950 found 9 ft. of rubble infill overlying 8 ft. of clay and gravel; no evidence of peat: Chitty (1951), 119.
- 50 Wyle Cop; SJ 4928 1240; top of the Wyle opposite St. Julian's lowered by some feet when earth was removed to make up area on the near side of English Bridge in 1789: *SNQ* 1(1886), 121; Leighton (1881), 101; Hobbs (1954), viii.
- 51 Wyle Cop; SJ 494 123; levels under the Wyle substantially raised; probably datable to building operations for the new English Bridge in 1774: Forrest (1935), 84; *SNQ* 1 (1886), 136.
- 52 Wyle Cop; SJ 4944 1245; pre-18th-century silt at 49 m. OD penetrating to lowest surviving terrace in Wyle Cop allotments; no evidence for occupation: excavations by SAU in 1975; Appendix I.
- 53* Wyle Cop; SJ 4936 1239; corner between Wyle Cop and Dogpole 'moved' in 1767 and 1926; (?) 13th-century door sill 5 ft. below street level: *TSAS* 4S 10(1926), xxxviii.

B *Prehistoric Evidence* (fig. 25).

Search Area: SJ E 45-53 N 09-17.

Chance Finds

- 1** Battlefield; SJ 510 169(?); group of bronze implements ploughed up in 1862; included bronze flat wedge-shaped axe, unlooped palstave, statuette(?), and three objects resembling sickles, 7 in. long: *TSAS* 3S 3(1903), *xxii*; *Proc. Soc. Ant.* 2S 2(1863), 251.
- 2*** Berwick; SJ 473 162; double-ended core of mahogany-coloured flint of unusual size turned up during beet-hoeing in 1953: *TCSVFC* 14(1951-56), 55.
- 3** Greenfields; SJ 495 139; conical butted stone axe made of Cornish rock (group 1) found in Falstaff Street 6-7 ft. down in 1946; Chitty (1951), 108; *SMAR* s.a. 1961.
- 4** Greenfields; SJ 4957 1407; core implement of brown flint from allotments in 1934-7(?) 200 yds. north of **B 3**; Chitty (1951), 113.
- 5** Greenfields; SJ 494 139; socketed bronze axe of the late Bronze Age found in the allotments in gravel(?) c. 1956: *TCSVFC* 16(1961-67), 64.
- 6** Hanwood Road, Meole Brace; SJ 4683/5 1121; group of 3 bronze implements, 2 palstaves, and a trunnion celt or chisel found in a gravel pocket in a brick clay pit in Edgebold Brickfield near the Old Toll Gate House at a depth of about 5 ft. c. 1897-8: *Ant. J.* 5(1925), 409; *Nature*, 116(1925), 786; *TSAS* 4S 12(1929), *xv*; in *SBM*(?).
- 7** High Street; SJ 4918 1248; perforated axe hammer of group 12 picrite found near Shirehall in 1886: Chitty (1951), 117-122; now in Birmingham City Museum.
- 8** Pride Hill, Post Office site; SJ 4928 1258; 'early tin coin' with the representation of a bird on one side and a horse on the other - possibly British 100-60 B.C., or a tradesman's token (medieval or later); among the finds from the 1875 builders' excavation; lost: Chitty (1951), 129; below, p. 259, n. 52.
- 9*** St. Michael's Vicarage; SJ 497 136; small flint from garden: *TCSVFC* 15(1957-60), 48.
- 10*** Mousecroft Lane; SJ 473 111; barbed and tanged flint arrowhead found; now in possession of Miss L. F. Chitty: inf. from Miss Chitty.
- 11*** Mousecroft Lane; exact location not known; hollow scraper on spall of glacial flint - perhaps from a consignment of gravel; in possession of Miss L. F. Chitty: inf. from Miss Chitty.
- 12** Sharpstones Hill; SJ 495 094; perforated axe hammer of group 12 picrite found near summit of Sharpstones Hill in 1948: *SMAR* s.a. 1949; *TCSVFC* 13(1947-50), 41; *TSAS* 43(1949-50), 34; *PPS* NS 17(1951), 162.
- 13*** Sharpstones Hill; SJ 492 102; crop mark showing concentric ditches of overall diameter approximately 65 ft. with associated linear gulley and without entrance; possibly a barrow: *SNL* 38(1970), 12.
- 14*** Shrewsbury; exact location not known; bronze socketed axe 4.25 ins. long: *TSAS* 4S (1925), 245; Chitty (1951), 123-4; in Cambridge Museum of Ethnology.
- 15*** Shrewsbury; location not known; stone mould(?), possibly natural: Chitty (1951), 125.
- 16*** Shrewsbury; SJ 4955 1329; whetstone, perforated at one end, probably medieval: Chitty (1951), 116, 142; in *SBM*.
- 17*** (?) Shrewsbury; location not known; bronze palstave, one of a number of implements sold at Shrewsbury in 1858: Chitty (1951), 122-3; in *BM*.

18 Sundorne; SJ 520 155; small axe hammer (battle axe) ploughed up on the site of Gregory's Coppice, Sundorne Grove Farm: SMAR s.a. 1960; *TCSVFC* 15(1957-60), 48.

Excavations

19 Sharpstones Hill, Site A; SJ 505 108; Bronze Age cremation cemetery under Iron Age enclosure and circular huts; Iron Age and Roman pottery; unpublished excavations by P. A. Barker, R. Livens, and W. E. Jenks in 1965-6: *SNL* 27(1964), 4; *SNL* 29(1965), 1; *SNL* 31(1966), 2-4; *SNL* 38(1970), 10.

20 Sharpstones Hill, Site B; SJ 505 108; late Bronze Age cemetery with linear ditches; unpublished excavations by W. E. Jenks in 1965: *SNL* 29(1965), 2.

21 Sharpstones Hill, Site C; SJ 505 108; set of undated ditches; unpublished excavations by W. E. Jenks in 1965: *SNL* 29(1965), 3.

22 Sharpstones Hill, Site D; SJ 505 105; neolithic ditch and pallisade; Romano-British cobbled surface; unpublished excavations by W. E. Jenks in 1968: *SNL* 32(1967), 3; *SNL* 34(1968), 5; *WMANS* 10(1967), 21-2.

23 Sharpstones Hill, Site E; SJ 496 104; Iron Age enclosure with a circular and a rectilinear house; Roman and Iron Age pottery; unpublished excavation by W. E. Jenks in 1969: *SNL* 27(1964), 4; *SNL* 34(1968), 10; *SNL* 37(1968), 10-15; *SNL* 38(1970), 10; G. Webster, *The Cornovii* (1975), 92 (plan).

24 Sharpstones Hill, Site F; SJ 513 105; walled enclosure and two circular features; unpublished excavation by W. E. Jenks: *SNL* 34(1968), 10.

C Roman Evidence (fig. 25).

Search Area: SJ E 46-52 N 10-16.

Displaced Finds - Coins

1 Abbey Foregate; SJ 5012; coin of Galerius (305-11) dug up by workmen in 1888: Chitty (1951), 137.

2 Castle Gates; SJ 4939 1282; 'Urbs Roma' (4th century) from soil removed to Quarry Place garden from Castle Gates in 1825: Chitty (1951), 127-8; A 9.

3 Copthorne Road; SJ 472 126; coins of Gordian (238-44), Tetricus (271-3), and Diocletian (284-305) (one example of each) 6 ft. below surface in clay: Chitty (1951), 136; OS SJ 41 SE (1949).

4 Coton Hill; SJ 485 135; coin of Claudius II (268-9) found while making the Coton Hill - Berwick road in the 1820s: Chitty (1951), 116-7.

5 Kennedy Road, Kingsland; SJ 485 117 or 486 117; coin of Faustina II (ob. 175) from garden of 'Whiteways': Chitty (1951), 137.

6 High Street, 45; SJ 4923 1241; coin of Domitian from 45 High Street next to Golden Cross passage before 1872: Chitty (1951), 137.

7 Mardol, 20; SJ 4902 1263; coin of Valens (364-78) or Gratian (367-83) found in 1881 during road works: Chitty (1951), 137.

8 The Mount, Frankwell; SJ 48 13; coin of Diocletian (284-305) from a garden shortly before 1884: Chitty (1951), 137.

9 Murivance; SJ 4889 1226; coin of Constans (337-50) from site of Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, 1879: Chitty (1951), 137.

10 Princess Street; exact site unknown; 'Roman Coin' discovered while laying a sewer in 1825: Chitty (1951), 117.

11 Pride Hill Chambers; SJ 4918 1260; coin of Valens (364–78) from stratified 14th-century context in 1972: Carver (forthcoming).

12 Water Lane; from site of Dominican Friary (SJ 494 126); coin of Valens (364–78) found in 1823: Adnitt (1891), vol. 5, 311.

Pottery

13 Pride Hill, Post Office site; *c.* SJ 4926 1260; 'Upchurch Ware' found in 1876; actually medieval: Catalogue (1882), 398, 401–2; A 36; below, pp. 258–9.

14 Gallows Croft; SJ 4907 1125; (*cf.* OS SJ 4911(1967)) or SJ 489 113(*cf.* Chitty (1951), 135); decorated urn; possibly for cremation: Chitty (1951), 132–5; now in SBM.

15 Meole Brace; exact site unknown; 'Roman pottery' from the garden of a bungalow in Stanley Lane: Paddock (1958), 1.

16 Pride Hill Chambers; SJ 4918 1263; sherd of Samian (Drag. 37) from 16th-century context in 1974: Carver (forthcoming).

Structures

17* Kingsland; SJ 4812; Roman buildings said to have been found in garden; nothing found by OS field workers: OS No. 35.

18 Shrewsbury by-pass–Mousecroft Lane–Meole Lane; reputed to represent the line of the Roman road through Meole Brace: *TCSVFC* 15(1957–60), 65.

19 'The Shielling', Meole Brace; SJ 4810; part of a Roman road excavated during building of the bungalow by Mr. T. S. Cole, now of Harley: *inf.* from the Revd. C. K. Beavan, Priest-in-charge, St. Alkmund's Church.

20* Meole Brace; SJ 4810; digging operations for the Knolls Farm housing estate gave no trace of a Roman road: *TCSVFC* 14(1951–60), 58.

21 Shrewsbury–Welshpool Road (A 458); cited as 'probable Roman road' by OS (1901, 1929).

Excavations

None, but see **B 20, 23, 24**.

D *Early Medieval Evidence* (fig. 27).

Search Area: SJ E 48–51 N 10–14.

Chance Finds, Excavations and Observations

1 Abbey Foregate; SJ 498 124; three interments of human remains enclosed in cists of red sandstone found beneath the foundations of the (destroyed) chapter house during sewer excavations in 1896. The burials were 'remarkably well preserved owing, doubtless, to the bodies having been surrounded with wood-charcoal at the time of burial. In this respect as well as in the character of the cists they closely resemble the interments discovered near the crypt of Old St. Chad's Church in 1889' (D 7): newspaper cutting in SPL 4107 (1896), 29.

2 Castle Foregate; near SJ 494 131; hoard of about 200 coins discovered by workmen building a new garage for the Shrewsbury Industrial Co-operative Society, near the G.P.O. Sorting Office, in 1936. The coins were stacked on a level surface about one yard below contemporary ground level. The six coins which survive from the hoard are pennies of Edward the Elder (901–25). See Appendix II.

- 3 College Hill; SJ 4914 1239; 3 sherds of early-medieval pottery recovered during building operations in 1974: SBM, nos. SCH 18, 21, 23.
 - 4 Dogpole, 20; SJ 4942 1242; a dozen sherds of early-medieval wares recovered from lower terrace of garden (outside the town walls) by the owner Mr. M. C. de C. Peele: in Mr. Peele's possession.
 - 5 High Street; SJ 4914 1254; rim sherd of early-medieval pottery: see A 26.
 - 6 Old St. Chad's; SJ 4921 1235; 'saxon' masonry found during clearing operations after the collapse of the church in 1788: Pidgeon (1837), 30; D 7.
 - 7 Old St. Chad's; SJ 4921 1237; excavation of the crypt beneath the north transept of the church, which had collapsed in 1788, gave '7th century anglo-saxon architecture' (reinterpreted as 12th-century), two 'British' burials in stone cists with charcoal (reinterpreted as 10th-12th-centuries), and a Roman stylus (reinterpreted as an 8th-9th-centuries shroud pin): Nurse (1890); Ch'tty (1951), 138; Cranage, 899-912; *VCH* i. 276; Smith (1953), 11 n; Adnitt (1891) vol. 3, for photographs of the excavations; for pin see Appendix II.
 - 8 Pride Hill Chambers; SJ 4918 1259; early-medieval pottery from a pit surrounded by a ring of stake-holes: Carver (forthcoming).
 - 9 Pride Hill; SJ 4917 1262; three sherds of early-medieval pottery from tail of 13th-century rampart: Carver (forthcoming).
 - 10* Pride Hill, Post Office site; SJ 4926 1260; some of the pottery recovered from this site thought to have been early-medieval; actually late-medieval: Catalogue (1882), 402; A 36, C 13; pp. 258-9.
 - 11 St. Alkmund's Place, 2a; SJ 4925 1254; early-medieval pottery from a pit 6 ft. deep and 4 ft. wide excavated in section; also a gilt or bronze brooch (since disintegrated): Toms (1969).
 - 12 St. Mary's; SJ 4935 1262; (?) late-Saxon grave cover recovered from beneath foundations of Norman pier of church during installation of a heating system in 1850: *TSAS* 5(1882), 252; *Arch. J.* 113 (1956), 188, pl. xxvB; Smith (1953), 14; Appendix II.
 - 13 St. Mary's; SJ 4935 1262; foundations, incorporating re-used stone, of apsidal building excavated in 1864: *TSAS* 2S 6(1894), 358; Smith (1953), 13.
- Documented Sites and Monuments
- 14 Abbey; SJ 498 124; site of earlier wooden church, pre- or post-Conquest: evidence of Ordericus Vitalis and Wm. of Malmesbury discussed by Smith (1953), 16.
 - 15 Churches mentioned in Domesday as existing in the Confessor's time are St. Alkmund's, St. Julian's, St. Mary's, and St. Chad's; evidence of relative antiquity derived from earlier commentators, dedications, etc.: Smith (1953), chap. 1; *TSAS* 2S 4(1892), v.
 - 16* Houses; 'in civitate Sciropesberie Tempore Regis Edwardi erant cclii domus'; in 1086 'castellum comitis occupaverit li masuras': Domesday Book.
 - 17* Manor at Meole Brace; SJ 4868 1056: a manor house stood next to Meole Brace church until its demolition by Adulph de Bracy after the Conquest: *TSAS* 10 (1887), 14; *TSAS* 53 (1949-50), 84; Paddock (1958), 4.

E Medieval Evidence (fig. 28).

Search area: SJ E 48-51 N 11-14.

Chance Finds and Observations

- 1** Abbey Foregate; SJ 4999 1239; pit, sealed by a cobbled surface and perhaps contemporary with a timber-framed building adjacent, salvaged by R. W. Griffiths of Bletchley during site clearance for the building of Safeway in September 1963; group of early-13th-century pottery: *TSAS* 57(1964), 265-6.
- 2** Abbey Foregate; SJ 4981 1242; 13th-century pottery from between the refectory pulpit and builder's yard in 1973: inf. from Mr. M. D. Pitman, formerly of SBM; pottery in SBM.
- 3** Abbey Foregate; SJ 4975 1242; two graves found between builder's yard and end of house-row in 1973: inf. from Mr. M. D. Pitman.
- 4** Austin Friars; SJ 487 126; remains of wall, roadway, and culvert found in 1901: SPL 1920, 9 (plan).
- 5** Austin Friars; SJ 487 126; a skeleton in lead coffin, moulded stones, and the foundations of a building found during building operations in 1910 and 1950: *TSAS* 3S 10(1910); *TSAS* 46(1931-2), 53-4; *TSAS* 54(1951-3), x.
- 6** Austin Friars; SJ 487 126; a 'plain barn-like building of weather worn red sandstone remained in 1911': Forrest (1935), 59.
- 7** Austin Friars; SJ 487 126; foundations of (?)14th-century round tower discovered, part of defence system along the river bank: *TCSVFC* 5 (1912), 259; *TSAS* 4S 8(1920-1), v-vi.
- 8*** Barker Street; SJ 489 125; small earthenware cup, supposed to be a lamp, found in the garden of Bellstone House about 2 ft. 6 ins. below surface: *Catalogue* (1898), 106.
- 9** Barker Street; SJ 488 126; various pieces of stone walling of indeterminate date planned by J. A. Morris c. 1905: SPL 1920, 37.
- 10** Bear Steps; SJ 4923 1252; a wall 2 ft. 6 ins. thick on Fish Street frontage cut into natural red sand observed by D. Stewart in 1971; reported (erroneously) to be the Norman town wall in *Shropshire Star*, 27 Jan. 1971; 2 sherds of '14th century' pot recovered from a preceding context, which showed no earlier levels: typed note by D. Stewart in SBM (Rowley's House) files.
- 11*** Belle Vue Gardens; SJ 4944 1175; tracery of greater part of a perpendicular window re-erected in the garden of no. 30; two fine angelic corbels and other carved stone now part of the rockery: observation by author, 1975.
- 12*** Berwick Road; SJ 4782 1424; late-medieval pottery found by Mr. M. C. de C. Peele in field east of Willow Pool in 1950: OS No. 2; in finder's possession.
- 13*** Bridge Street; SJ 4883 1271; 50-ft. length of 'town wall' which formed the base of St. Chad's School buildings exposed on premises of Morris & Co.: *TCSVFC* 7(1923), 83.
- 14** Carline Fields (1974); SJ 4964 1226; trial excavation by SAU gave riverine deposits under post-medieval make-up; no evidence of medieval settlement: records and material in SBM; Appendix I.
- 15** Castle Foregate; SJ 4939 1290; silver coin of Elizabeth I, blade of a (?) 14th-century dagger, and skeleton of a (?) young man bearing traces of lime seen and identified by Mr. Southam during works on the railway station yard. Also found was a 'bronze bodkin about 4 ins. long, somewhat similar to that illustrated in No. 19, Plate

- 36 of Roach Smith, *Illustrations of Roman London* (1859), only the head was flat and plain': *TSAS* 3S 3(1903), xxv; A 7; p. 260, n. 61.
- 16 Castle Street; SJ 4928 1268; pottery recovered during redevelopment of site of Raven Hotel in 1963 was all of 13th century or later: *SNL* 21(1963), 4.
- 17* Castle Street; SJ 494 127; octagonal slab of purbeck marble, probably a mullion, inscribed with an (incomplete) reference to Aliz Lestrangle (fl. 13th century), found at a depth of about 8 ft. below ground level: *Arch.J.* 14(1851), 72; E 56.
- 18 Claremont Street; SJ 4899 1250(?); tanning pits found in 1869 under the market at Bellstone-Claremont Street junction: *SSP* 7(1885), 101; OS No. 93.
- 19* Ditherington; SJ 498 141; skeletons discovered 6 ft. down in clay on Mount Pleasant estate in 1961: *SPL* 5834, 132.
- 20 Dogpole(1975); SJ 4938 1238, 4938 1241; trial excavations in gardens of nos. 21 and 22 gave made-up ground of the 16th century and later; all earlier deposits effaced or disturbed: records and material with SBM; Appendix I.
- 21 Grope Lane-Fish Street; SJ 4921 1251; 20-ft.-square red sandstone building found c. 1925 at corner of Grope Lane and Fish Street (west side); patterned floor tiles: *TSAS* 4S 10(1925-6), vi.
- 22 Gullet Passage; SJ 4910 1248; unpublished excavations by Mr. M. D. Pitman in courtyard in 1973 gave 18th-century levels at 1.430 m., medieval levels at 1.845 m., and waterlogged deposits containing birch or hazel down to 2.440 m.; measurements below contemporary street level: material with excavator.
- 23 High Street; SJ 4919 1249; mullions, tracery, moulded stone, and human bone recovered during alterations to a shop at the corner of Grope Lane and High Street in 1884: *SNQ* NS 1(1892), 13.
- 24 High Street; SJ 4919 1244; wall 65 ft.(?south) from High Street frontage running 30 - 35 ft. in south-westerly direction; excavated 16½ ft. down into sand without reaching the bottom of the wall; observed during building of Della Porta's in 1927: Ward (1947), 12; *TSAS* 4S 11(1927-8), x.
- 25 High Street; SJ 4923 1247; sandstone walls observed between High Street and Fish Street; identified by Leighton as remains of St. Alkmund's college (E 65) and by Drinkwater as inner town wall (E 109): *TSAS* 6(1883), 268-70 (incl. plan); OS No. 145.
- 26 High Street, 1; SJ 4926 1242; unpublished recording of (?)16th-century timber-framed building by P. J. Clarke for SAU in 1975 during reconstruction: records with SBM.
- 27 High Street; SJ 4915 1254; stone wall with two angles seen during building operations: *CNC* 20(1937), 136. In the same area medieval pottery was found in 1975: A 26.
- 28* Hill's Lane; SJ 489 126; 'early English glazed tile' found in Hill's Lane and belonging to J. A. Morris of St. Austin's Friars: *Catalogue* (1898), 120.
- 29 Mardol Head; SJ 4911 1250; excavations on site of timber-framed building by D. Stewart in 1973 contacted peat deposit: unpublished material with excavator.
- 30 Mardol Head; SJ 491 125; layer of cobbles 18 ins. deep set in clay observed 4 ft. 6 ins. below road surface during sewer-laying operations in 1959; possibly a medieval road: *TSAS* 56(1960), 346-8.

- 31 Market Street; SJ 4905 1245; ?jug and coarse medieval pot about 12 ins. high found in excavations beneath the West Midland Trustee Savings Bank in 1959: SMAR s.a. 1959; SPL 5834, 101.
- 32 Old St. Chad's (1889); SJ 4921 1236; excavation of (?)12th-century crypt by J. Nurse: Nurse (1890); D 7; other material and records not located.
- 33 Pride Hill; SJ 4922 1262; a vaulted 'crypt' discovered in 1880 under cellar of no. 20; *Bye-Gones* NS 8(1903-4), 321; OS No. 94.
- 34* Pride Hill; SJ 492 126; truncated pits in natural sand about 15 ft. below street level beneath cellar observed during redevelopment on site of the Gas Board offices in 1969; yielded 2 sherds of medieval pottery: *SNL* 36(1969), 27-8.
- 35 Pride Hill; SJ 4928 1264; almost complete aquamanile recovered from rubble tip derived from excavations for new Barclays Bank building in 1958: *TSAS* 57(1964), 267-8; *SNL* 3(1958), 4.
- 36 Pride Hill; SJ 4912 1255; large pit containing 23 sherds of 14th-16th-centuries pottery, including a large glazed jug, tiles, bone, and worked antler found during building operations at Lloyds Bank in 1931 and 1933: *TSAS* 48(1934-5), 241; *TCSVFC* 10(1935), 3; SMAR s.a. 1934.
- 37* Pride Hill; SJ 4912 1255; pottery bottle now in possession of manager of Lloyds Bank probably recovered during building operations in 1931 or 1933: Chitty (1951), 138.
- 38 Pride Hill, Post Office site; c. SJ 4926 1260; medieval pottery and tiles recovered during excavations for the new Post Office in 1875: A 36.
- 39 Pride Hill, Post Office site; c. SJ 4926 1260; coarse earthenware pot 5 ins. high found in 1956 during borings for the site of the Post Office at a depth of 15 ft. 9 ins.: SMAR s.a. 1958; A 37.
- 40 Pride Hill-High Street; SJ 4914 1254; 'interments' discovered during building operations on the site of R. Maddox & Co. in (?)1920s: CNC 17(1930), 32.
- 41 Pride Hill, 45; SJ 4917 1257; broken masonry of a '13th century ecclesiastical building' found during excavations at the back of 45 Pride Hill and the Alliance Assurance Co.'s offices in 1881: *TSAS* 4S 10(1925-6), vi.
- 42 Pride Hill (1971); SJ 4918 1259; emergency excavations by W. E. Jenks on re-building of premises of Messrs. Boots: Carver (forthcoming); records and material with excavator.
- 43* Pride Hill (1972); SJ 4918 1259; excavation by G. S. G. Toms of east half of courtyard of Pride Hill Chambers yielded pit sequence from Saxo-Norman period: Carver (forthcoming); records and material in SBM.
- 44 Pride Hill (1971-3); SJ 4918 1260; excavation by W. E. Jenks of west half of courtyard of Pride Hill Chambers and interior of (?)15th-century stone building founded on town wall to south: Carver (forthcoming); records and some material with excavator; selected material in SBM.
- 45* Pride Hill (1974); SJ 4917 1262; excavation by M. O. H. Carver of area south of monument gave sequence of its construction on 13th-century town wall; residual material of early-medieval date; evidence of extensive levelling and make-up; recording of monument by P. J. Clarke: Carver (forthcoming); records and material in SBM.
- 46 Princess Street, 5; SJ 4917 1242; an 'ancient wall of stone' parallel with the street, 14 - 15 ft. long, 7 ft. 6 ins. thick with arches and niches observed in 1891: *SNQ* NS 1(1892), 98.

- 47 Roushill (1958); SJ 4905 1262; excavation by P. A. Barker of 13th-century town wall and pottery sequence dated thereby; no earlier material: Barker (1961); records with excavator; material in SBM and SPL, and with excavator.
- 48 Roushill; SJ 4908 1263; section of 13th-century (?) town wall (with later reconstruction) exposed during redevelopment of Charles Clarke's garage in 1969; all deposits removed and the wall subsequently collapsed: *SNL* 36(1969), 27; photograph in SBM.
- 49 St. Alkmund's Square; SJ 492 124; a street connecting New and Old Fish Streets passing between St. Alkmund's and St. Julian's churches found during excavations in 1884: Hobbs (1954), 27.
- 50 St. Alkmund's Place (1968); SJ 4925 1254; emergency excavations by G. S. G. Toms of 5 pits containing 10th- to 12th- and 13th-centuries pottery: Toms (1969); records and material with excavator.
- 51* St. Julian's Friars; SJ 4949 1219; timber-framed building of early 16th century recorded by Shropshire Old Houses Recording Group during demolition in 1967; attached to nos 22-26 St. Julian's Friars, themselves part of the Franciscan Friary, *E* 73: *SNL* 33(1967), 20.
- 52 St. Julian's Friars; SJ 494 122 or 495 122; skeletons found on the site of Vincent Greenhous motor works in 1938 and 1952: *SPL* 4066, 61.
- 53 St. Julian's Friars (1975); SJ 4943 1227; trial excavation by SAU gave 13th-century town wall and later pits but no structures: records and material in SBM; Appendix I.
- 54 St. Julian's Friars; SJ 4944 1227; 10-ft. length of the town wall exposed at no. 40 and covered over again: *TCSVFC* 7(1923), 83.
- 55 St. Mary's Water Lane; SJ 4943 1261; workmen in 1823, levelling part of the bank (on which the Dominican Friary stood) for the purpose of forming a road from the Union Wharf, discovered part of the foundations of a wall; more walls, doorways, and worked stone (?re-used) in the foundations. Two worked stones re-employed in the top of gable of Union Wharf Co. warehouse. Stone graves discovered set E-W containing skeletons embedded in red sand. See *SPL MS* 3055, ff. 11-12, 16-17, 22; Adnitt (1891), vol. 5, 311.
- 56 *Ibid.*; foundations of three chambers 31 ft. long, one 21 ft. wide, another 18 ft. wide; appeared to be cellars, but many fragments of mullions 'of very handsome late gothick' were discovered and many pieces of very small octagonal pillars: Owen and Blakeway, ii. 451; compare *E* 17.
- 57 *Ibid.*; skeletons dug up 2 ft. below surface in 1932: *CNC* 18(1932), 58.
- 58 St. Mary's Water Lane; area SJ 4945 1266; post-medieval deposit, medieval sandstone foundations, and burials excavated by M. D. Pitman in 1973: below, pp. 288-9; records and material with excavator.
- 59* St. Mary's; SJ 493 126; documented report on the Stone House then in process of demolition: *TSAS* 3S 9(1909), 249-58.
- 60 Swan Hill Court; SJ 4905 1230; red sandstone foundations found in 1897: *SNQ* 11 Sep 1911. Medieval masonry including moulded spandrel, multi-shaft pier section, and finial positioned in rockery: observation by author in 1974; see also *SPL MS*. 198, f. 29.

61* Wyle Cop; SJ 4926 1242; old wall 4 ft. thick running from the NW corner of St. Julian's churchyard down towards Milk Street, found by workmen in 1884: *SSP* 6(1884), 2.

62 Wyle Cop; SJ 4934 1237; (?)14th-century vaulting in cellar beneath London House public house found in 1926; the Wyle Cop (south) wall of the cellar was 4 ft. thick and had a (?)13th-century door, with a worn sill 5 ft. below street level; interpreted as remains of stone gate through town wall: *TSAS* 4S 10(1926), xxxviii.

63 Wyle Cop; SJ 495 123; an 'early medieval' building behind the Barge Inn, near English Bridge, demolished; the lower part, 40 ft. by 20 ft., originally built of stone; ascribed a 14th-century date: *TSAS* 4S 12(1929-30), xix.

Known or Suspected Sites and Monuments

Churches and Convents

64 Abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul; SJ 4985 1247: Owen and Blakeway, ii, plan facing p. 83; SPL map no. 50; Adnitt (1891), vol. 1,2; OS No. 46; DoE(1972), 5,24,25, and amendment no. 1(1973), 2.

65 St. Alkmund's Church and College; SJ 492 124; Cranage, 893-7; DoE(1972), 158; *TSAS* 6(1883), 268-70 (plan); Adnitt (1891), vol. 4; OS No. 145.

66 Augustinian Friary; SJ 487 126; founded 1254-5: Owen (1808), 301; Phillips (1779), 108; Leighton (1881), 105 (picture); *TSAS* 3S 7(1907), 105 (plan); *TSAS* 4S 12(1929-30), 131; *TSAS* 4S 13(1931-2), 51; *TCSVFC* 5(1910-12), 259; Forrest (1922), 141; E 4-7.

67 St. Blaise's Chapel; SJ 4907 1236; the domestic chapel of Vaughan's Mansion: DoE(1972), 69; *TSAS* 11(1888), 93 (map); *TSAS* 3S 5(1905), 395; Phillips (1779), 146; E 103; OS No. 134.

68 Cadogan's Cross and Chapel; SJ 4838 1294; Owen and Blakeway, ii. 465; Hobbs (1954), 18-19; *TSAS* 11(1888), 98; *TSAS* 3S 5(1905), 394; *TSAS* 3S 9(1909), 108; *TSAS* 4S 1(1911), 126; Forrest (1922), 151; OS No. 150.

69 St. Catherine's Chapel; SJ 4921 1346; Owen and Blakeway, ii. 466; Phillips (1779), 110; Forrest (1922), 153; OS No. 4.

70 St. Chad's Church and College; SJ 491 123; Owen and Blakeway, ii. 180-256; Owen(1808), 144-93; Phillips (1779), 85-90; Auden (1923), 67-70; Cranage, 899-912; DoE(1972), 138; plan from Nurse (1890); *TSAS* 4S 12(1929-30); Adnitt (1891), vol. 3.

71* St. Chad's Almshouses; SJ 4917 1228: Owen (1808), 323; Phillips (1779), 122; Forrest (1935), 45; OS No. 121.

72 Dominican Friary; SJ 4943 1261; founded c. 1242: Owen (1808), 305; Owen and Blakeway, ii. 444; Forrest (1935), 31; *TSAS* 9(1886), 251-66; OS No. 50; E 55-58; Adnitt (1891), vol. 5, 312-13 (plans).

73 Franciscan Friary; SJ 4949 1219; founded c. 1245: Owen (1808), 304; Owen and Blakeway, ii. 317, 461-2, 464; *VCH* ii. 89; *TSAS* 4S 12(1929-30), 75-84. Plan (in 1774): SPL 1920, 8. Made into houses in 1794: *SNQ* 1(1886), 132; OS No. 69; DoE(1972), 172; E 51-54.

74 St. George's Chapel and Hospital; SJ 4894 1285: Owen and Blakeway, ii. 467; Owen (1808), 321; Phillips (1779), 113,116; Cranage, 914; Forrest (1922), 145; Hobbs (1954), 95; OS No. 102.

- 75** St. Giles's Chapel and Leper Hospital; SJ 5072 1186; Owen and Blakeway, ii. 171; Phillips (1779), 84; Cranage, 908; OS No. 19.
- 76*** St. John's Chapel and Hospital, Frankwell; area SJ 486 129 (Chapel St.): Owen and Blakeway, ii. 469–72; Owen (1808), 321; Phillips (1779), 113; Forrest (1932), 145; Hobbs (1954), 25; OS No. 21. Some writers identify with St. George's Chapel, **E 74**.
- 77** St. Julian's Church and Royal Free Chapel; SJ 4928 1243; Owen (1808), 287; Phillips (1779), 106; Cranage, 919; *TSAS* 4S 6(1916–17), 1; Adnitt (1891), vol. 4; OS No. 88; DoE(1972), 84.
- 78*** St. Martin's Chapel; High Street – Market Street area?; Owen and Blakeway, ii. 473; *TSAS* 4S 10(1925–6), vi; Smith (1953), 64; Hobbs (1954), 97; **E 23, 24**.
- 79** St. Mary's Collegiate Church and Royal Free Chapel; SJ 493 126, 493 125; Owen and Blakeway, ii. 302; Phillips (1779), 90–100; Owen (1808), 193–266; Cranage, 923–63; *TSAS* 2S 6(1894), 358 sqq. (incl. plans); DoE(1972), 174.
- 80*** St. Mary's (the Drapers') Almshouses; SJ 4930 1257; the almshouses were demolished c. 1824; Owen (1808), 325; Forrest (1922), 74; *VCH*, ii. 111–14; OS No. 117.
- 81*** St. Mary Magdalen's Chapel and Hermitage; area of Cadogan's Cross, Romaldsham or Hermitage Lane?; Owen and Blakeway, ii. 473; Forrest (1922), 149; Owen (1808), 315; *TSAS* 3S 5(1905), v; *TSAS* 4S 1(1911), 126; OS No. 77; **E 11, 85**.
- 82** St. Michael's Church; SJ 494 128; Owen and Blakeway, ii. 416; Owen (1808), 309; Cranage, 964; Hobbs (1954), 99; *TSAS* 4S 8(1921–22), 254; OS No. 17; (?) Burghley.
- 83** St. Nicholas's Chapel; SJ 4940 1250; chapel under the former United Reformed church; demolished 19th century, it was described as 'a small cruciform structure of Norman character with an apsidal east end and herringbone work in the north wall': Leighton (1881), 100; Owen and Blakeway, ii. 473; Owen (1808), 313; Phillips (1779), 110; Smith (1953), 70; OS No. 73; (?) Burghley.
- 84*** Spittle Dales, Hospital; Meole Brace area; in existence before 1277; OS No. 36.
- 85*** St. Romuald's Chapel; SJ 489 125; Owen and Blakeway, ii. 474; Hobbs (1954), 91; Blakeway (1905–7), 97; Forrest (1922), 149; Owen (1808), 315; OS No. 104. Some writers identify with St. Mary Magdalen's, **E 81**; others state it stood opposite Blake's Hall, **E 88**.
- 86** St. Werburgh's Chapel; near SJ 4900 1232; perhaps on the site of 9 Swan Hill Court; Hobbs (1954), 101; Owen and Blakeway, ii. 475; Forrest (1922), 152; *TSAS* 11(1888) 93(map); OS No. 127; **E 60**.

Halls and Houses

- 87** Bennett's Hall; SJ 4911 1257; nos. 1, 2, and 3 Pride Hill; remains: DoE(1972), 141; Smith (1953), 148; *TCSVFC*, 15(1957–60), 58; OS No. 111. **E 36** possibly represents an associated rubbish pit.
- 88** Blake's Hall; SJ 4883 1252; on the site of the present vicarage of St. Chad's; Forrest (1935), 62; Peele (1951), 82.
- 89** Booth Hall; SJ 4915 1249; on site of **E 95**: Forrest (1935), 65.
- 90** Charlton Hall; SJ 4902 1245; Owen (1808), 480; Forrest (1935), 36; Blakeway (1905–7), 34; Smith (1953), 160; Phillips (1779), 145; *TSAS* 3(1880), 372; OS No. 108.

- 91 Cole Hall; SJ 4902 1256: Owen (1808), 490; Forrest (1935), 51; *TSAS* 51(1941-3), 152; *TSAS* 4S 12(1929-30), *xviii*; *TSAS* 2(1879), 283; OS No. 106; Smith (1953), 177 sq.
- 92 Council House; SJ 4944 1270: Forrest (1935), 27; DoE (1972), 74; Smith (1953), Appendix C, where a 13th-century date for the original structure is preferred; OS No. 48; below, p. 270.
- 93 Hoord's Hall; area of Romaldsham, Barker Street – Claremont Hill: Forrest (1935), 61; Smith (1953), 179; *TSAS* 51(1941-3), 152; OS No. 99.
- 94* Kaym's Place; near SJ 4900 1231; on site of Owen's House in Swan Hill: Hobbs (1954), 101; Forrest (1935), 37; *TSAS* 11(1888), map between 92-3.
- 95 Guildhall; SJ 4915 1249; 13th-century building replaced by Booth Hall, E 89.
- 96 Mytton's Mansion; SJ 4919 1337; nos. 20 – 22 Coton Hill: Forrest (1935), 91; Pevsner (1958), 228; OS No. 6; DoE (1972), 71.
- 97 Mytton's Mansion; SJ 4938 1232; nos. 65 – 69 Wyle Cop: Forrest (1935), 80; *TSAS* 4S 5(1915), *i*; *Shrewsbury Chronicle*, 11 Dec. 1936; OS No. 59; DoE (1972), 218.
- 98* Pride's Mansion; SJ 492 126; (?)no. 25 Pride Hill: Forrest (1935), 32. For other candidates at no. 9 and nos. 15 – 17 see CNC 10(1912), 19; *TSAS* 4S 10(1926), *xxxvi*; Carver (forthcoming).
- 99 Romaldsham Hall; SJ 4889 1264: Blakeway (1905-7), 88; Forrest (1935), 60; OS No. 132.
- 100 Shearmen's Hall; SJ 4927 1239: Owen (1808), 465-74; Forrest (1935), 8-9, 77; OS No. 113.
- 101 The Stone House; SJ 4895 1249: Forrest (1935), 60; E 59.
- 102 Thornes' Place; SJ 4929 1270; on the site of the Raven Hotel: Forrest (1935), 28; OS No. 122; associated with E 16.
- 103 Vaughan's Place; SJ 4908 1240; incorporated in the Music Hall: Owen (1808), 484; Forrest (1935), 38; Smith (1953), 166; DoE (1972), 69; OS No. 109.

Mills, Wells, and Weirs

- 104 Abbey Mill; SJ 4975 1238: Owen and Blakeway, ii. 83; OS No. 46.9.
- 105* Barker Street; SJ 4889 1264: well found on site of Romaldsham Hall c. 1908: CNC 9(1912), 84.
- 106* Burnt Mill; SJ 5041 1137: Hobbs (1954), 75; OS No. 21.
- 107* Abbey Mill – Trill or Prince's Mill; SJ 5031 1216: Hobbs (1954), 75.
- 108* Cole Windmill, Frankwell; SJ 4875 1280: *TSAS* 3S 1(1901), 300,303; OS No. 91.
- 109* Coton Windmill; from Windmill field, Coton Hill: Hobbs (1954), 38.
- 110* Frankwell Windmill; from Windmill Croft, near Cadogan's Cross (E 68): Hobbs (1954), 51.
- 111* Hencote Mill; SJ 4845 1467: OS No. 1.
- 112* St. Chad's Well; SJ 4911 1235; in a garden adjoining Clive House: *TSAS* 3S 10(1910), *ii*; *TSAS* 4S 12(1929-30), *xi*; Forrest (1933), 41.
- 113* St. Mary's Well; SJ 4949 1272; on the bank below the Council House: Owen and Blakeway, ii. 444; OS No. 51.
- 114* Rowley's Mansion Well; SJ 4894 1260; well beneath yard: CNC 9(1912), 84.
- 115* Well in the Square; SJ 4914 1248: OS No. 89.

116 Weir and Barge Gutter; Coton Hill; SJ 490 134: *SNL* 41(1971), 4-7; *SNL* 44 (1973), 24-31; Hobbs (1954), 8; *TCSVFC* 8(1927-30), 154; *TSAS* 53(1949-50), 249; Burghley.

Other Structures

117 The defences, town walls, and bailey; Burghley; Speed (1610); Rocque (1746); *TSAS* 6(1883), 257; *TSAS* 9(1886), 285-8; *TSAS* 4S 2(1912), *ii-iii*; *TSAS* 4S 10 (1926), *xxxvi-xxxviii*; *TSAS* 4S 16(1937-38), 97-118; *TSAS* 56(1957-60), 15; *TCSVFC* 5(1910-12), 175,255,259; *TCSVFC* 7(1926), 206-7; *TCSVFC* 9(1931), 48; *TCSVFC* 10(1938), 193; *CNC* 8(1911), 62,68,72; *CNC* 9(1912), 98,101,104; *SPL* 1920, 4, 6, 11, 13-14 (plans of wall under St. Chad's 1790, wall at Murivance 1760, and 'gate' on Wyle Cop); Leighton (1881), 113 (picture of round towers by Welsh Bridge); *E* 47, 48; Smith (1953), 107 sq.

118* Gallows; SJ 4907 1123; *TSAS* 52(1947-8), 4; 54(1951-3), 135; OS No. 22.

119* High Cross; SJ 4926 1263; Hobbs (1954), 60; Pevsner (1958), 274; OS No. 115.

120* Holy Cross; near SJ 4965 1240; Hobbs (1954), 73.

121* Pillory; SJ 4912 1245; *TSAS* 8(1885), 96; *TSAS* 2S 3(1891), 215; OS No. 65.

122 The Quarry; SJ 4868 1237; *TSAS* 6(1883), 191; *TCSVFC* 5(1910-12), 314-27; Hobbs (1954), 88; Pevsner (1958), 270; OS No. 114.

123 Vineyard; SJ 494 124; Owen and Blakeway, *ii*. 45.

124* Weeping Cross; SJ 512 104; has been identified with a cross discovered in St. Giles's churchyard; Hobbs (1954), 119; OS No. 12.

125 Welsh Bridge; SJ 489 128; existence from *c.* 1160; *pontem S. Georgii*; Hobbs (1954), 120; Burghley; Speed (1610); Rocque (1746).

126 Markets; transferred from St. Alkmund's churchyard to the Square (subsequently paved) in 1261; summary in Smith (1953), 74.

Extant Monuments

Extant monuments have been mapped from DoE (1972), reconciled with Smith (1953), Appendix B, modified by advice from P. J. Clarke, and taking a stated date of early 16th century or earlier as the criterion for inclusion.

Streets, Shuts, and Lodes

These have been mapped from Hobbs (1954), taking a stated date of 1540 or earlier for the first occurrence as the criterion for inclusion.

III: EVALUATION AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Evaluation of the archaeological deposits

An interpretation and evaluation of the deposits in the central area of Shrewsbury, as suggested by Section A of the catalogue, is given in fig. 26, where prime and priority sites are also proposed.

Like all the entries in the catalogue, those of Section A are of various quality. The records are open to criticism on a number of grounds. Positions and depths are vaguely given: it is odd how estimated depths seem to centre on 5, 10, and 20 feet. Soil descriptions too are vague: almost every type of dry soil may be described as gravel

while anything dark and organic-looking is liable to be labelled 'peat'. In general only first-hand observations have been included, although there have been temptations to include others. Oliver Mathews's 17th-century description of Shrewsbury as '*Caer Odder yn Hafren*, which is by entrepretat'on The Cittie or the Towne of fallinge or slydinge grounde within the wombe of Seaverne',²⁰ seems particularly apt. He goes on to remark that the 'Bangorian brethren' who first colonized Shrewsbury 'cast trenches aboute the towne, betwixt Seavron and the towne, to keep that the water should not waste the ground above the trenches which they made about the water side for save guard of the ground'. Such statements have not been included, though they surely derive from some contemporary topographical awareness. Nevertheless hearsay evidence has undoubtedly crept into the catalogue, and only a systematic policy of recording archaeological strata by those familiar with the method can provide the data which this definition really needs.

The modern surface geology of the small part of the Severn Valley under examination presents the central part of Shrewsbury as a cap of sand and gravel over boulder clay, almost entirely surrounded by alluvium (see fig. 25). Beyond this central peninsula lie other spreads of sand and gravel, or strips of gravel river terraces, these forming also in general the areas of higher ground.

In those areas of the gravel that have been examined outside the peninsula, archaeological traces lie in the natural surface, beneath 6 to 18 inches of topsoil (see Sutton Lane, p. 256). When the topsoil is ploughed, these traces give rise to crop marks (e.g. those on Sharpstones Hill, B 19-24). On the boulder clay the situation is less clear; either settlement is less intense or crop marks occur less frequently. In the alluvial zone 'peat' has been found 6 feet beneath the presumed flood loam (A 20). The mobility of the Severn and of the Rea Brook, both in respect of their courses and watertable, is beyond question (A 13, 14, 30, 42, 43, 46, 52), but the chronicling of such movement, so important for the evolution of settlements and settlement patterns, has yet to be satisfactorily achieved. At this stage it can be noted that all the material catalogued here which is provenanced and earlier than the 12th century occurs above the 200-feet contour.

Within the peninsula the fate of the sand-and-gravel stratum has been very different. It has experienced a great deal of artificial movement, being largely dug away in places and redeposited on the alluvium in others. The terracing out to boulder-clay foundations for the medieval town wall is recorded on the west side (A 11,33,35,42) and strongly suggested to the east (A 16,17,46). In the south, where the gravel gives way to an apron of bare clay, terracing has not been recorded but may be observed along the stretch now known as Town Walls (see also A 45). Bare rock is recorded in the remaining south-west quarter (A 4,40), but it is just possible that this area, adjacent to the swimming pool (SJ 486 124), still holds an intact upper surface of the sand-and-gravel cap. Even so, the site has had prolonged use as a fairground, with consequent confusion to any underlying prehistoric residues.

Where terracing has occurred, it has been accompanied or followed by dumping out over the inner litoral (A 2,9,42,46,52). Such deposits are known from the 13th century and later, mainly as waste. The Smithfield area to the west did not finally dry out to be exploited as a settlement area until the 18th century. Following the erection of the town

²⁰Quoted by Owen and Blakeway, i. 2.

wall, cutting also began inwards behind the walls, both for cellaring and foundations (A 34,39). A subterranean survey conducted in 1912 (A 39), concluded: 'the old builders seem to have taken a delight in burrowing under their neighbours' property, some of the vaults going under the houses on both sides, and some even under the street'. Observers tend to assume that any wall which descends lower than about 6 feet must belong to a 'town wall', even where it lies off the known line and is seen to be part of a cellar (E 62). This is relevant to the area in the centre of the town between Market Street and Fish Street, where wall sightings have most often been reported as belonging to an 'inner', or 12th-century, town wall – an idea which appeared to receive support from an interpretation of the documented expression 'ultra muros'.²¹ It is not easy, however, to produce a consistent line from any set of these sightings, and they are, as Smith (1953) observed, much better interpreted as foundations or revetments of terraces in the slope which exists between St. Alkmund's Church and Market Street. That slope was formerly much steeper. The deposits under the Square (see A 19,22,23,24,25,29,49), variously described as 'peat', 'manure', and (reinforced by somewhat oblique documentation)²² a 'pond', descend to 25 feet or more in places. The deposit itself may actually be anaerobic, sealed by the dumping of impervious material above it, with consequent preservation of animal and plant remains. Since the levelling and paving of the area is recorded in the 13th century (E 126), the underlying south-facing hill slope has a prime potential for the preservation of settlement of the early-medieval period and earlier. No archaeological deposit so far located in Shrewsbury is of greater importance than this.

On higher ground timber traces are very vulnerable. Where the natural sand and gravel has been seen (A 11,16,17,33,34,35) it has been levelled by modern and earlier yards and house platforms and quarried. Even the activity of burrowing animals has altered the character of the natural deposit, which breaks up rapidly on exposure to the weather. It must be expected that the levelling by excavation of this soft material has taken place even for the emplacement of timber-framed buildings. No intact layers have yet been found in contact with a buried soil; thus the earlier levels which survive are those belonging to the latest levelling, except in the case of truncated pits (eg. A 34,35,44). Only on the four church sites, which are of course perforated by burials, and within the bailey, where there are no records, can there be much optimism that early stratification has survived on the higher ground. This is of direct consequence for the distribution of finds: in all cases on the higher ground the erasure of earlier deposits must be assumed; on lower ground only accurately stratified material can be certainly innocent of redeposition. The evidence for earth-moving has been used to reconstruct the line of the 220-foot contour – see fig. 26.

In contrast with many of the deposits, is the quantity of extant timber-framed buildings (DoE, 1972; E 1,26,29,45,51,63). The fact that they leave so few traces below ground is compensated by the variety and sophistication of detail which remains in the timbers themselves. From the 'excavation' and analysis of such detail, structural sequences can be set up which are rich in architectural and social information: the lay-out of upper-floor halls, street-front shops, and wine cellars, the different functions of rooms in a large house under single ownership, fashion and purpose in jetties,

²¹Hobbs (1954), 11.

²²Ibid. 57.

arrangements for fires and chimneys. Even a brief inspection of a medieval house of no special grandeur in the process of demolition is a reminder of how much of the Middle Ages happened upstairs, where the conventional archaeologist is rarely permitted, or inclined, to visit.

Prehistoric and Roman evidence from the Shrewsbury area

Finds of the prehistoric and Roman periods in the Shrewsbury area have been over-plotted on the surface geology given in fig. 25. The result, however, is quite misleading unless a distinction is made between finds that are simply 'reported' and those actually known (or even thought) to have been recovered from a consistent archaeological context. The latter can be said of only 14 cases out of 45 in the catalogue (Sections B and C) and of only one Roman find, the Gallows Croft urn (C 14). The ability of the later town to attract ancient artifacts means that care must be taken to establish the provenance of finds and eliminate any chance of displacement. 'I had seen several medals at Shrewsbury', remarks a 19th-century commentator, 'most of which were found [at Wroxeter], and I purchased a few myself, the people call them *Wroxeter-Dinders*'.²³ A simple record of depth and position may not be enough. Given the occurrence of Samian ware in a 14th-century floor layer which had been redeposited in the 16th century,²⁴ there is really no substitute for controlled excavation in the case of these valued or controversial artifacts.

The most important finds of the pre-Saxon period from the area come from the series of excavations on Sharpstones Hill (B 19–24) carried out by Mr. W. E. Jenks of Bayston Hill in 1965–8. When published, these excavations will probably prove to be the first step in the serious exploration of the prehistory of lowland Shropshire – a study which, as elsewhere in the West Midlands, is being initiated from the air. Crop-mark sites are known along other ridges besides Sharpstones – at Upton Magna and Withington for example – each forming a ribbon of multi-period settlement whose overall geography is little known. Thus far, however, there is nothing to suggest that during the prehistoric and Roman periods the evolution of the settled landscape in any way involved the site of Shrewsbury.

Post-Roman Shropshire will no doubt continue to fascinate and mystify scholars and antiquaries, though not, one hopes, until the end of time. The identification of Shrewsbury as Pengwern, seat of the princes of Powys in the 6th and 7th centuries, suggested by Giraldus Cambrensis and perpetuated by Owen and Blakeway,²⁵ Nora Chadwick,²⁶ Idris Foster,²⁷ and discussed most recently by John Morris,²⁸ surely deserves a detailed documentary investigation. Owen and Blakeway's verdict, that 'what they [i.e. the 12th-century authors] found to be the opinion of their age must surely be the truth',²⁹ is a reasoning that could be improved, and it hardly explains the (equally true) attribution to Shrewsbury of other Welsh names.

²³Quoted in C. H. Hartshorne, *Salopia Antiqua* (1841), 132. 'Dinder' is glossed as a corruption of *denarii*; *ibid.* 393–4. The validity of Roman finds from Shrews. is also discussed by G. S. G. Toms in Carver (forthcoming).

²⁴From layers tipped over the town wall: Carver (forthcoming).

²⁵Owen and Blakeway, i. 5.

²⁶Nora K. Chadwick, 'The Celtic Background of Early Anglo-Saxon Eng.', *Celt and Saxon: Studies in the Early Brit. Border*, ed. Nora K. Chadwick (Cambridge, 1964), 339.

²⁷Foster, 'The Emergence of Wales', *Prehistoric and Early Wales*, ed. Idris Ll. Foster and G. E. Daniel (1965), 228.

²⁸John Morris, *The Age of Arthur* (1973), 241–2.

²⁹Owen and Blakeway, i. 5.

Archaeology has so far nothing to offer to the Shrewsbury of the 5th–8th centuries; the problem is discussed further below. Before dismissing the conjectured British origins of the town completely, however, it should be remembered that the period has yet to be recognized anywhere with any great confidence. Moreover it seems unlikely that much progress will be made until work is undertaken on the pottery and settlements of the local Iron-Age and native Romano-British cultures.

The Late-Saxon and Early-Medieval Town

The earliest Anglo-Saxon artifact so far recorded from the town is the styliform pin discovered during excavations of the crypt of Old St. Chad's in 1889 (D 7). This 8th- or 9th-century object is discussed in Appendix II.

That there was a major settlement at Shrewsbury in the later Saxon period is not in doubt. The place-name is identifiable in the adjectival form *civitate Scrobbensis* in the subscript to a Wenlock charter dated 901,³⁰ and as the *Scrobbsbyrig* of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, s.a. 1006. Henry of Huntingdon (*Salopscire*, 1006) and Florence of Worcester (*Scrobbsbyrig*, 1007) have been held by Owen and Blakeway to show that there was a royal palace on the site by the early 11th century.³¹ According to Symeon of Durham, Eadric Streona deserted to Cnut in 1016 and Edmund in retaliation devastated, among others, the *Scrobbsbyriensem provinciam*.³² The form *Scrobbsbyrig-scire* implies that Shrewsbury was the principal English borough in the area at the time of the creation of the shire. The name also occurs in abbreviated form (*Scrob*, etc.) on a late-Saxon coinage well represented in British and foreign coin hoards.

Speaking of the time of Edward the Confessor, Domesday Book mentions, in *civitate Sciropesberie*, 252 houses and the churches of St. Mary, St. Alkmund, St. Chad and St. Julian (D 15,16). Fifty-one of the houses, or rather their tenements (*masurae*), were occupied by the site of the Norman castle, a fact which suggests a size for the pre-Conquest settlement of roughly five times that of the Norman bailey. The distribution of tenement ownership after the Conquest included at least 39 given to the abbey, lying presumably in its vicinity.

Place-names within Shrewsbury are first recorded in the late 12th century (Hobbs, 1954): *Biforietan* or *Biforgatam* (Abbey Foregate),³³ *Northforietan* (Castle Foregate), *Altus Vicus* (Castle Street – St. Mary's) and, less certainly, *Rumaldesham* (Barker Street). None of the extant street names needs have an Anglo-Saxon derivation, although Wyle Cop, Dogpole, and Coleham among others have been put forward as having Old English elements (Hobbs, 1954).

This promising documentation receives rather meagre endorsement from the archaeological evidence. The only structure so far located is the apsidal building found beneath St. Mary's, D 13. Reference to the description of the near-by chapel of St. Nicholas (E 83) is a reminder that such a plan need not be pre-Norman. The same church produced a decorated grave cover, stratified beneath a Norman pier (D 12). This, which is also not necessarily pre-Conquest in date, is discussed in Appendix II.

³⁰...acta est autem ista chartula anno dominice incarnationis DCCCCI ... in civitate Scrobbensis ... : *Cartularium Saxonicum*, ed. W. de G. Birch, ii, no. 587 (p. 230).

³¹Owen and Blakeway, i, 21–2.

³²*Ibid.*, 23.

³³The early form of this name is surely of the same derivation as the later ([ab]biforiet) and not as suggested by Hobbs (1954), 1.

The same uncertainty over date may be felt about the two groups of charcoal burials from Old St. Chad's (D 7) and the abbey (D 1) respectively. Nevertheless all these objects are of prime importance in indicating centres of activity in the early town.

The hoard of 200 pennies of Edward the Elder (D 2) was recorded in the local press in 1936 and is published here in Appendix II. The coins were discovered in Castle Foregate 'about one yard down and stacked on a level bottom'. The implication is not immediately clear. It is possible that they could have been buried in a chest, but stacking implies access to a building of some kind. If that is really a fair description of the circumstances of discovery, it could be held that contemporary settlement is involved. A deposition date of c. 920 is proposed on the basis of the six coins which survive. Unfortunately, without either a clear context or the complete hoard, the possibility must remain that the coins belong to a later circumstance.

The most useful indication of settlement concentration ought to be its pottery. Until very recently finds of early-medieval pottery in the West Midlands were scarce. We now have a much clearer idea of the identity of this material, which surely will quickly be recognized in many places.³⁴ Although it is known to be in existence by the late 10th century, however, it has no clear terminus until the late 12th century, when it ceases to occur with types already recognized. In Shrewsbury the showing is thin, and — once displaced or uncertain material has been eliminated — we are left with two rubbish or cess pits excavated by Mr. Toms at St. Alkmund's Place (D 11) and with Pride Hill Chambers (D 8). Those at least indicate settlement, although the period and type is still uncertain. In anticipation of one of the conclusions of this paper, it may be suggested here that it is likely that the archaeology of this period, especially where it was coincident with the higher ground, has suffered more than any other from levelling and excavation. (See p. 253.) If the evidence of the deposit evaluation given in section A of the catalogue may be considered independent, the lack of Anglo-Saxon or early-medieval material from the centre of Shrewsbury is no proof that it was not occupied.

The archaeological evidence provided in each case does not allow a clear distinction to be drawn between Shrewsbury before and after the Norman Conquest. We can say of this first phase of the settlement, here called 'Early-Medieval', that it is not later than the 12th century and probably not earlier than the 9th.

In drawing fig. 27 advantage has been taken of information supplied by the geological map GS(1929) and by fig. 26 (particularly the reconstructed 220-foot contour). This shows the general settlement to be dominated by a narrow strip of high ground, at once more isolated and more defensible than the modern site. No certainty, however, can be attached to the position or even the existence of a single nucleus for the Anglo-Saxon settlement. The sparse evidence points to no developing or expanding centre but suggests rather that much of the elevated land — whether on the peninsula or in the suburbs — was already in use. The best model for the original complex seems to be a group of interconnected townships, whose origins may have lain in widely different circumstances and purposes and which were given political cohesion in the later 10th century. It remains to discover how far such cohesion had a military, monastic, or mercantile inspiration, and the circumstances and material details of the town's earliest decades.

³⁴See App. II (p. 258).

The Medieval Town (fig. 28)

By the first half of the 13th century Shrewsbury was a large, powerful, well defined settlement. It is rich in documentation and rich also in the problems that such documentation brings. There are references to obscure suburbs and buildings not yet identified on the ground (E 68,81,82, etc.), and more documentary research would greatly enrich our knowledge of those that survive.

There is, furthermore, a wealth of secondary documentation some of which conceals observations made at first hand – on a wide variety of subjects – which awaits a more detailed synthesis than will be given here.³⁵ An excellent place for such a synthesis to begin would be with the defences, which so certainly are thought to define the medieval town.

Observed walls are normally dated to the years 1220–42 which, for good documentary reasons, are years known to have seen the erection of a town wall.³⁶ Hobbs (1954), however, implies that work on the town walls should have been continuing after the mid century, and the defences mentioned in the 13th century need not be those shown on Speed's map of 1610. In only three places has the town wall actually been excavated in controlled circumstances; in one of these, the wall proved to be 19th-century (p. 257) and in the other cases the interpretation was hampered by the fact that Shrewsbury's medieval pottery typology is insufficiently sensitive for dating purposes. Indeed in the first, carried out at Roushill, the documented wall and its dating was used to put the pottery itself in context for the first time (E 47).

At Pride Hill the associated stratification was read to show continual modification and rebuilding of the wall at back, front, and on top from the 13th century onwards (E 45). Some of the secondary documentation mentioned earlier chronicles the pulling down of the town walls in the 18th and 19th centuries and remarks that the demolition had already begun in 1571.³⁷ There is more than a suspicion that work on the building and rebuilding of the defences was liable to have been in progress at any time between the 13th century and the late 16th, when, after a short interval perhaps, it began again with the Civil War refurbishment. Given the friable nature of the sandstone used in its construction and the ease with which it could be exploited underground for cellars and ducts, it would not be surprising if very little of the original fabric survived above the foundations by the end of the medieval period.

Another problem closely allied to that of the town wall is that of the use of red or white building stone. Of what are these colours diagnostic? Forrest's view³⁸ that red sandstone was used for the Norman wall and that Henry III's wall was of white Grinshill ('as may be seen on the portion still known as Town Walls') receives no support from the excavations. At Pride Hill (E 45) the 13th-century town wall was of red sandstone, and Grinshill, or a related white sandstone, was used in repairs dating to the 15th or 16th centuries. There is moreover no certainty that the 'Norman wall' ever existed, and the 'portion still known as Town Walls' appears today as a patchwork quilt, using stone of either colour but with the lighter coloured stone generally in the

³⁵e.g. the notes and drawings in S.P.L. scrapbks.

³⁶See Barker (1961).

³⁷CNC 8(1911), 62; CNC 9(1912), 105.

³⁸CNC 20(1937), 136.

upper courses.³⁹ The 13th-century halls that are known are in the redder sandstone while the market hall of 1595 is built in the yellow-white variety. Sightings of the 'Civil War' wall have mentioned stone of both colours. A simple progression from red (the type available at the Quarry) by the 13th century to white by the 16th, with later repairs involving re-used stone of both colours, is the best theory for the present; in qualification, however, it should be added that sandstone quarries have a propensity for producing a variety of coloured stones from the same seam.

The ability of archaeology to elucidate problems of dating or structure and to amplify our picture of town life in the Middle Ages by excavation below ground is constrained by two main factors. The first is the lack of a clearly evolving sequence of medieval pottery, the second the disturbed condition of so many of the town's lowest layers. These factors may however be construed as evidence in their own right.

Work on the pottery from Pride Hill by Miss Elaine Morris has greatly increased our understanding of the use and limitations of the local typology.⁴⁰ Whereas 'imported' types such as the Malvernian-gritted cooking-pot probably represent a fairly short episode (belonging in this case to the later 13th century), the preponderant, and therefore presumably local, fabrics have not been seen to evolve markedly. As with many other sources of evidence for the town we have a start date some time in the mid 13th century, discontinuous with all that has gone before but extending without very many intermediate ceramic parameters up to the 16th century, when a fresh group of independently datable 'imports' reaches Shrewsbury.

If this mid-13th-century date is right for the beginning of this second pottery phase, then the same period saw a great deal of levelling, earth-moving, and also construction, (A 11,16,33,34,35). The stone halls that are known, the town walls, the castle, the four major churches, the three friaries, and the abbey were all built or rebuilt in or around the mid 13th century. That is also the period, as has been remarked,⁴¹ when building stone became generally available for vernacular use in England. It has already been pointed out (p. 226) that such buildings require rigid foundations and that medieval man was prepared to dig deep for them if the surface soil was weak or mobile. Timber-framed buildings find stability on such a surface with greater ease, and it is probably no accident that they survive in such profusion.

To the general picture of disturbance brought about by the construction of terraces, walls, and numbers of stone buildings, may be added the documented move of the market place to the Square c. 1261 and the paving of that area (E 126). It may also be more than an accident of survival that a group of streets off the lower end of Pride Hill is mentioned for the first time in this same century (Hobbs, 1954).

The most significant effect of the medieval evidence is in fact to suggest that during the first half of the 13th century a programme of military and civil engineering was carried out which altered much of the topography of the original settlement cluster. The central area of the peninsula was subjected to levelling and terracing and ringed by a defensive wall. The interior was replanned with a new market and a grid of streets off Mardol, Shoplatch, and the south end of Pride Hill. Whatever the political and

³⁹In 1881 there was a panel on the town walls, 'on the south side', which announced that that part of the walls had been repaired in 1740: Leighton (1881), 103. There is a photograph of the panel in S.P.L. (negative 7/32A).

⁴⁰Carver (forthcoming), chap. 8.

⁴¹Beresford and Hurst, *Deserted Medieval Villages*, 93.



PLATE 13. — Grave Cover (11th cent.) from St. Mary's, Shrewsbury.

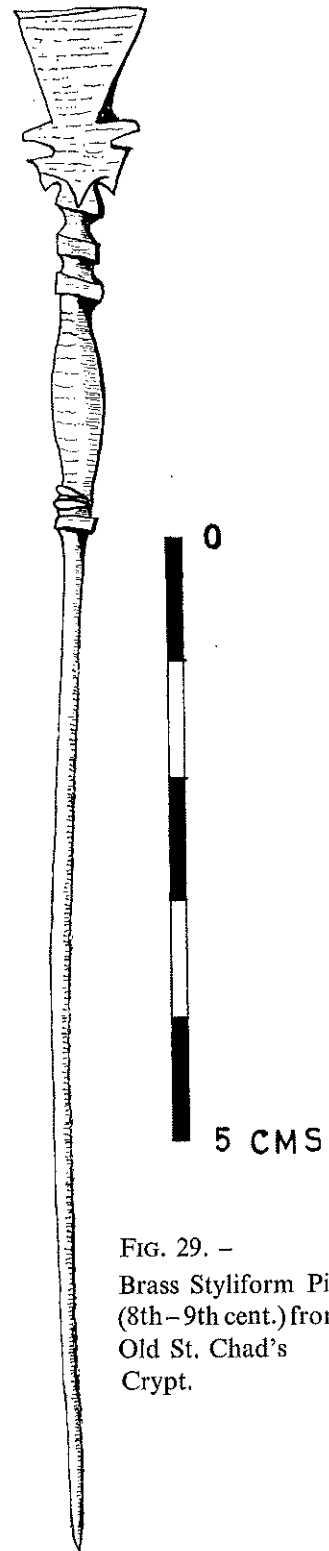


FIG. 29. —
Brass Styliform Pin
(8th–9th cent.) from
Old St. Chad's
Crypt.



PLATE 14. – Plowden Hall, the east front.



PLATE 15. – Plowden Hall, the west front.

economic implications of this, and however insecure its absolute dating, within a short space of time a new era in the life of the town began, which was as creative, and as destructive, as that of the Industrial Revolution.

Conclusion

The recommendations implicit in fig. 26 may be summarized as follows. Only a few areas below ground remain undamaged by levelling and earth-moving, a practice which began on a large scale in the 13th century. Of these, the areas around the four early churches should preserve at least the residue of the earliest settlement, and the same may be true of the open area in the bailey. Of special importance are those patches which lie away from graveyards or have been free of stone buildings, and in this respect the garden of Old St. Chad's college is a site of prime potential. The best preservation of the pre-13th-century town should be contained in the area beneath the Square. All these sites should be protected from further destruction, and no damage done to their deposits without prior recording.

A second feature of the town's archaeological potential is its unusual wealth of medieval and 16th-century timber-framed buildings, many concealed beneath later façades. If the status of vernacular architectural studies could be raised sufficiently, medieval archaeology would gain much from its application to this obvious but neglected asset.

The picture adduced from the find evidence is of a settlement which cannot be said to exist before the late-Saxon period, and cannot be recognized archaeologically as a town before the mid 13th century. The early-medieval settlement, in which late-Saxon and 12th-century cannot yet be distinguished, is seen as a group of interconnected villages or townships. If a *burh* was founded on the site, it could have been defended with little difficulty by throwing a barrier across the neck of the peninsula. All the earliest levels of the town, however, are suspected of damage or removal by later earthmoving operations, and nowhere more than in the area of Owen and Blakeway's 'British settlement' (at the top of Wyle Cop: see A 50,51) and across the neck of the peninsula (A 7,9,47).

In the mid 13th century archaeology notices a planning or replanning of the peninsula settlement, with widespread earthmoving, the destruction of earlier evidence, and the erection of stone buildings, terraces, and town walls. The sequence of pottery is not yet sufficiently sensitive to add much to the chronicle of social life from the 13th to the 16th century, but there is much compensation in the detail provided by extant early buildings.

It is difficult not to see the origins of Shrewsbury as its outstanding archaeological problem. The discussion on pp. 248-9 has not of course done justice to the subject, which may be approached from many different directions. The type of site itself has a peninsular character in common with Durham and Bristol, and the instances are multiplied when former streams and bogs are discovered and mapped. Stafford is another such south-facing peninsular site, as are Oxford and Worcester, the peninsulas in these cases being provided by tributaries with attendant marsh. It is the marsh, rather than the water barrier or the height of the ground, which tends to give these sites their defensive potential, and it is by mapping the marsh rather than by mapping defensive ramparts that the settlement may be defined. Given this association, this marsh-bound

type of site might seem to have its obvious *raison d'être* in 10th-century military strategy, were it not for the fact that they so often also have an earlier monastic tradition. It is at the same time difficult to find an early monastic site that is not wholly or partly surrounded by water, whether it be in a river meander, at the confluence of two streams, on an island, or on a promontory.⁴² The modern isolation of some of these sites has led to a feeling that their choice was ascetic rather than practical, but the question of communication must have had great influence. In an era when water transport was paramount a settlement pattern based on arterial waterways is surely to be expected.

In this respect the position of the (?)7th–8th-centuries church at Atcham⁴³ is of significance. Atcham itself has an early form of place-name compounded with the personal name Eata — at once the dedication of the church and the name of an abbot and bishop recorded in 7th-century Northumbria by Bede.⁴⁴ The church lies on a loop in the Severn, a little to the west of the confluence of the Severn and Tern, the name of which is cited in Welsh sources.⁴⁵ To the east lies Wroxeter and the Wrekin, to the west lies Shrewsbury, and to the north a new crop-mark site of remarkably middle-Saxon character has recently been added to the Upton Magna group.⁴⁶ Whether or not Atcham proves to represent an intermediate phase between the urban decay of Viroconium and the wholly English exploitation of Shrewsbury remains to be seen; within this small area, however, will lie the solution to many problems.

This paper set out to present evidence and has ended by giving recommendations and providing an interpretation and model of the evidence so far gathered. That was inevitable, and the interpretation and model should not of course be taken to be definitive in the sense that they are expected to survive for long. It is hoped that as the evidence is extended and improved, the model will be rebuilt and the present group of vague assertions from ill-recorded evidence will be transformed into a sequence of clear archaeological statements from which history can be written. A planned programme of research, incorporating the protection of prime sites and the careful and systematic surveillance of the remainder, is one way to bring this ideal nearer to reality.

APPENDIX I

Trial Excavations in Shrewsbury, October 1974 to April 1975

1 *Carline Fields*. The site to be redeveloped, at the time a car-park, covered a small spit of land contained by the Severn to the west and the Rea Brook to the north (SJ 496 122). The potential of the site was suggested by the supposed early settlement implicit in the name Coleham and by the documentary references to potters in Coleham in the Middle Ages.⁴⁷

⁴²See O.S. *Map of Britain in the Dark Ages* (1971). The impetus behind these observations is owed to Prof. Rosemary J. Cramp.

⁴³H. M. and J. Taylor, *Anglo-Saxon Architecture*, i (1968), 31.

⁴⁴Bede, *A Hist. of the Eng. Church and People*, transl. L. Sherley-Price, revised edn. by R. E. Latham (Penguin Bks. 1968), 193.

⁴⁵*Mercian Studies*, ed. Ann Dornier (Leicester U.P. 1977), 37, 38.

⁴⁶J. K. St. Joseph, 'Air reconnaissance: recent results, 39', *Antiquity*, xlix. 294–5 and plate XXXII.

⁴⁷Cited in Barker (1970), 16–17.

A resistivity survey was carried out by W. E. Jenks and A. Wharton, and one of the areas which had shown high response was chosen for trial work. A 3 × 8 m. long trench was taken north-east from SJ 496425 122500, and another of the same length south-east from the same point.

The top cover proved to be consistently made-up ground of the 18th century and later. It lay to a depth of 1.75 m. on alluvial silt containing some abraded medieval pottery. There were no features. The alluvium was proved to a depth of 0.75 m.

2 *Dogpole*. The site to be developed contained a large building (the Shrewsbury Club, 21 Dogpole) whose cellars were found to be let into naturally deposited, hard yellow sand. The potential of the site was to give intramural settlement at a point near the find-spot of early medieval pottery (see D 4). Trial trenches 3 m. wide were taken in the gardens of 21 Dogpole (10 m. east from SJ 493750 124125) and Dogpole Court (no. 22) (10 m. east from SJ 493800 123825). The sequence given in the trench at 21 Dogpole was as follows.

Surface at 67.31 m. OD (west end) and 67.18 m. OD (east end).

Horizontal layer of black organic soil 20 cms. thick (modern finds).

Horizontal layer of gravel with some brick chippings, 20 cms. thick (modern finds).

Five pits containing rubble with tile and plaster, brown sand or gravelly soil with mortar and charcoal descending to 1.5 metres, cutting each other and natural sand; (post-medieval and a few late medieval finds).

The total depth explored was about 2 m.

Conclusion. Although one severely truncated, late-medieval feature survived, the area had been disturbed overall by the disposal of post-medieval building materials in large pits in the soft sand. That was followed by levelling with gravel in the 19th century. The incidents may be nearly contemporary and refer to the construction of the Shrewsbury Club in the 19th century.

The sequence in the Dogpole Court trench was as follows.

Surface at 67.39 m. OD (west end) and 67.37 m. OD (east end).

Horizontal layer of black organic topsoil 30 cms. thick (modern finds).

Horizontal layer of brown soil with mortar, charcoal and brick rubble, 70 cms. thick (post-medieval finds).

Horizontal layer of pink brown sandy soil with mortar flecks 50 cms. thick (post-medieval finds).

Three pits back-filled with sand or sandy clay cut into natural orange sand or grey sandy gravel; descending more than 50 cms. (undated).

The natural was proved to 2 m. The total depth explored was 3.50 m.

Conclusion. The area had been quarried for sand and gravel at an indeterminate date and had then been levelled with loam three times in the post-medieval period, presumably to make a terraced garden. The supposed line of the town wall was not searched in this excavation.

3 *St. Julian's Friars*. The site to be developed was bordered by the line of the town wall (see OS (1965) and E 54) on the south side, by a cinema to the north, and by St. Julian's Friars (a narrow street leading to the site of the Franciscan Friary, E 73) on the east. The potential of the site was to give intramural settlement in an area thought to include the well dated Friars gate through the town wall.

A trial trench was taken across the site at right angles to the anticipated line of the town wall, northwards from SJ 494200 122700. The sequence was as follows.

Layer of black soil containing mortar and rubble and crossed by brick walls of 19th-century date and more modern drains; the black soil lay to a depth of 40 – 60 cms.

The walls were identified as the back (west) walls of buildings belonging to Straphen's Court, planned on OS (1882).

The removal of this layer exposed the top and northern (inner) face of a wall of red-sandstone ashlar, in use as a foundation by the garage building to the south. This was identified as the town wall.

A black organic layer up to 80 cms. thick (18th-century finds). Identified as a cultivation soil. It buried the top three courses of the town wall, which had been repointed.

Layers of sandy-clay soil, lying to a depth of 50 – 90 cms., in which were cut a dozen parallel trenches running east-west, about 70 cms. wide, 20 cms. deep, and 20 cms. apart. These were identified as cultivation trenches, possibly for growing celery. The layers were also cut by two cesspits and lay over two weathered courses of the town wall (finds of the 15th century and earlier).

Layer of sandy soil with mortar, red clay pieces, and fragments of red sandstone lying to a depth of $\frac{1}{2}$ m.; these layers were rendered largely incoherent by moving water.

They lay against two unweathered courses of the town wall (finds of 13th century and later).

Blue-green clay, a natural deposit lying close against rubble foundation courses of the town wall. The bottom of the foundations was not reached.

Total depth explored was 2.80 m.

Conclusions. A vertical cut had been made in the natural clay bank and the foundations of a red-sandstone (town) wall rammed into the clay from the south to form a revetment. Waste material from the construction was scattered on the north side. This construction occurred not earlier than the 13th century. Cultivation (including horticulture) took place on the north side of the town wall with gradual accumulation of soil into at least the 15th century. In the 18th century the area was levelled, the exposed town wall repointed, and the area again given over to cultivation. In the 19th century the area was developed, apparently for the first time, as Straphen's Court.

4 *Sutton Lane*. The area to be developed lay on an elevated plateau of sand and gravel contained by a loop in the Rea Brook (SJ 502 108). The potential of the site was suggested by the prehistoric finds on similar terrain from nearby Sharpstones Hill (see B 12, 13, 19–24).

The site was not ploughed and had shown no features to air photography, apart from an earthwork in very low relief in the area SJ 5003 1092. There were no recorded surface finds. Prospecting was carried out by means of a fluxgate gradiometer survey and a trial strip taken to cross the earthwork.

The fluxgate gradiometer survey was done by R. Poulton of the University of Bradford. The whole area was covered by long traverses at 4 m. intervals. Neither normal nor reverse anomalies were encountered, although 'soil noise' gave variations of only ± 3 gamma, conditions which would normally be considered ideal for magnetometry.

The trial strip was 5 m. wide and 15 m. long. Topsoils, varying in depth from 10 to 25 cms., gave onto natural gravel. The profile of the earthwork could be detected as a

gentle undulation in section. Abraded late-medieval pottery was present. There were no finds or features diagnostic of earlier periods.

Conclusion. The earthwork was interpreted as denuded ridge and furrow of the later medieval period. A negative result from a fluxgate gradiometer survey could not be taken as decisive, but, combined with the lack of finds and features, it led to the conclusion that the area was not settled in prehistoric times.

5 *Wyle Cop Meadow*. The site was an area of allotment gardens bounded to the north by the Royal Salop Infirmary, by the river towpath to the east, by Wyle Cop tenements to the south, and by the line of the town wall (OS, 1965) to the west (SJ 494 124). The potential of the site was to provide an examination of the town wall exterior, and to locate one of the medieval borough mills. To this end two exploratory trenches were taken: a single trench (A) against the town wall, and a series of machined strips in the meadow itself (X,Y,Z).

Trench A was taken eastwards from a point of the town wall at SJ 494050 124575 for 6 m. where it ended against a terrace wall of white sandstone. The town wall was constructed of red and white sandstone blocks and had a chamfered plinth. On excavation it proved to be of 19th-century date, having no foundation courses. Its lowest ashlar course lay at 65.48 m. OD directly on black organic soil containing pottery of the 19th century.

The eastern terrace wall was constructed of white sandstone and had cut layers containing 18th-century pottery.

Between these two walls, and buried by soils and detritus of the 18th and 19th centuries, was a demolished wall surviving to three courses, made of mortared red sandstone. This had cut layers containing 17th-century pottery to the east and a stiff pink sandy clay containing medieval cooking pot to the west.

The excavation did not find natural deposits, and was terminated at a depth of 2.80 m.

Conclusion. The sequence showed terracing and levelling from the 17th century onwards; there was no sign of the medieval town wall itself, which probably lies further to the west.

Trenches X, Y, and Z showed that beneath 25 – 50 cms. of topsoil, the meadow area consisted of water-bound alluvium, which was proved to a depth of 1½ m. in a number of places. The water table lay currently between 48.23 m. and 48.86 m. OD; the site was flooded once during the excavation. From SJ 494375 124500 a rough revetment wall belonging to the 17th century or later ran northwards. The ground rose to the west of this, and immediately to the east of it abraded medieval pottery was found in clayey gravel beneath 40 cms. of alluvium. No other features suggestive of medieval or earlier occupation were found.

Conclusion. The area showed no signs of use other than as a water meadow. Some attempt at protection had been made at the foot of the slope in the 17th century or thereabouts, but the meadow area remained subject to inundation and erosion from the river into modern times. Dumped medieval material may lie beneath alluvium, but settlement or any major construction is unlikely, given such conditions.

APPENDIX II

Anglo-Saxon Artifacts from Shrewsbury

1 Pottery

Pottery identified as early-medieval in date in general has the following characteristics: the fabric is sandy with occasional large quartzite inclusions, and has generally been fired oxidized to give a light-buff to dark-orange surface colour. In form the vessels derive from small, sagging-based, flange-rim cooking pots, about 2 litres in capacity; base and body sherds are often fumed. The styling of the pots features two main characteristics: a simple pinched rim rolled or drawn horizontal into a nearly triangular section; and, on only a small percentage of examples, a band of rouletting around the shoulder or on top of the rim.

The Shrewsbury sherds have been identified with the pot found at Castle Esplanade, Chester, which contained a coin hoard deposited about 970;⁴⁸ they are now to be compared with groups stratified in pre-Conquest Hereford⁴⁹ and at Clarke Street, Stafford, where about 50,000 sherds were found between Roman and 12th-century contexts.⁵⁰ All this pottery belongs to a genus found in the West Midlands in contexts ranging from the 10th to the 12th centuries in date. It may thus be called 'West Midlands Early Medieval Ware', a working term designed to beg no questions but which does not preclude subdivision when centres of manufacture and distribution become known. If, as stylistic grounds would suggest, the ware is generally pre-Conquest, then the late 11th and 12th centuries will appear in many West Midlands centres to be nearly aceramic; that is quite possible, though not yet proved.

The two sealed contexts containing West Midlands Early Medieval Wares in Shrewsbury (D 8 and 11) are published in Toms (1969) and Carver (forthcoming). None of the remaining sherds has an undisturbed provenance.

The large group of pottery from the Post Office site (D 10), has been claimed as both Roman and Early Medieval: see Chitty (1951) and Toms in Carver (forthcoming). Johnson's original report to the Society of Antiquaries in 1876 stated: '... we have a great many pieces of coarse dark or black earthenware, very like Roman Upchurch pottery, but by no means so well manufactured. Some have belonged to a very large vessel, and look as though they have been exposed to a smokey flame. Others are ornamented by a wavy line scored upon the soft clay with a sharp point. Others have a wavy or serpentine line drawn perpendicularly. One exhibits a more elaborate pattern. Another is covered with a greenish glaze, and impressed with a round tool making a depression, which is surrounded by two concentric circles. Again we have specimens of a dirty red unglazed pottery marked only with wavy lines.' He mentions, in the same group, glass bottles, a pottery bottle, and floor tiles with fish and stag design.⁵¹ Johnson himself concluded that the site was not Roman, and the description given leaves little doubt that the group was late-medieval, ranging from Malvernian-gritted cooking pot

⁴⁸G. Webster, 'A Saxon Treasure Hoard found at Chester, 1950', *Ant. J.* xxxiii. 22-32; cf. J. D. A. Thompson, *op. cit.*

⁴⁹R. Shoesmith, *Excavations in Hereford* (forthcoming in C.B.A. monograph series).

⁵⁰Excavations by M. O. H. Carver, 1975.

⁵¹*Proc. Soc. Ant.* 2nd ser. vii. 94-6.

of the 13th century through to 14th- and 15th-century jugs and bottles. (Compare Carver (forthcoming), fig. 63 nos. I and II).⁵²

West Midlands Early Medieval Ware is currently the subject of a research project sponsored by the Department of the Environment.

2 *Grave-Cover from St. Mary's Church (D 12)*

This slab is made of red sandstone⁵³ and shaped rather than cut to a blunt rectangle measuring approximately 107 cms. by 62 cms. by 12.5 cms. deep. One large side is carved with a wheel-headed cross and shaft of thick four-strand interlace with, to the left, two interlaced beasts biting nose to tail, and, to the right, a simple plant. The decorated field, which is executed in low relief, is surrounded by a simple roll moulding.

C. A. Ralegh Radford dated the piece, identified as a grave-cover, to the late 10th or early 11th century.⁵⁴ That date can be supported by the cross-head, late among Saxon types, by the rather lumpy interlace, by the generally informal execution of the symmetrical patterns, and by the shaping of the stone itself. Consideration of the motifs in use may however modify the dating a little. The lack of Viking influence is perhaps to be expected, but less so is the lack of contact with contemporary Midland schools.⁵⁵ Simple coiling animals, however, were in vogue in the region in the later 11th century — the nearby Uppington tympanum provides an example.⁵⁶ The 'Tree of Life' (which is the best interpretation given to the motif on the right) was also popular in the 11th century, and, in its more symmetrical form, is provenanced in Normandy.⁵⁷

The Shrewsbury grave-cover should therefore be at home in the 11th century and is not necessarily pre-Conquest in origin.

3 *Styliform Pin from Old St. Chad's (D 7; fig. 29)*

The pin is 12.75 cms. (5 inches) long. It was recovered during the excavations of the crypt of Old St. Chad's in 1889, but the exact find-spot was unfortunately not given in the report (Nurse, 1890). It was identified at the time of discovery as a Roman stylus, but the object was later noticed by G. C. Dunning, who reinterpreted it as an 8th-9th-centuries pin.⁵⁸ It is exactly paralleled by an object found during the excavations at Whitby,⁵⁹ which is discussed by the authors of the report in the context of a group of styliform pins dating from the late Merovingian and Carolingian periods; it is thought to have been used for parting and pinning the hair. The simplicity of the object would suit it for a variety of domestic uses, and it may be that it was serving here, as has been

⁵²The same notice mentions 3 coins found in the excavation: a 'counter', a farthing of Jas. I, and a third 'of lead' bearing 'a rude figure of a cow or ox, with its tail erect, as if fleeing from the bites of insects'. The description of the last (probably a close relative to the 'early tin coin' reported by Miss Chitty: B 8) is reminiscent of 17th-century tokens.

⁵³This material is exceptionally vulnerable to weathering, and the slab has suffered a loss of decorative detail since it was placed outside the church. Cf. the illustration, perhaps a little overdrawn, in W. A. Leighton, 'The Early Incised and Sculptured Stones of Shrops.', *T.S.A.S.* v. 251-6.

⁵⁴Notes to the visit of the Royal Archaeological Institute to Shrews., 1955, in *Archaeological Jnl.* cxiii. 188.

⁵⁵T. D. Kendrick, *Late Saxon and Viking Art* (1949); Rosemary J. Cramp, 'Anglo-Saxon Sculpture of the Reform Period', *Tenth-Century Studies*, ed. David Parsons (1975), 184-99.

⁵⁶G. Zarnecki, *Eng. Romanesque Sculpture 1066-1140* (1951), fig. 15.

⁵⁷L. Stone, *Sculpture in Britain: The Middle Ages* (1st edn., 1955), 54.

⁵⁸See Smith (1953), 11 n.

⁵⁹Sir C. Peers and C. A. Ralegh Radford, 'The Saxon Monastery of Whitby', *Archaeologia*, lxxxix. 65, figs. 15 (no. 3) and 76 in text.

suggested, as a shroud pin. Nevertheless it is of course possible that this type of object was indeed intended to be a stylus. The use of wax tablets is attested in the middle-Saxon period.⁶⁰

Although the pin is the earliest unequivocal evidence we have for Anglo-Saxon activity of any kind on the site of Shrewsbury, it is an isolated find⁶¹ and its potentially long useful life should not be forgotten.

The Old St. Chad's pin was analysed by S. Warren of the School of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford, and found to be a brass with the following composition:

| | |
|--------|----------------|
| Copper | 75.1 per cent. |
| Zinc | 17.5 " " |
| Lead | 2.3 " " |
| Tin | 5.1 " " |

Mr. Warren analysed the pin with X-ray fluorescence equipment. The analysis was restricted to the surface and was therefore that of the patina; this is, however, thought to give a good indication of the type of alloy in use.⁶² The composition would suit a medieval metallurgy which favoured the use of zinc and the addition of small amounts of tin and lead to confer fluidity.⁶³

4 Pennies of Edward the Elder from Castle Foregate (D 2)

A hoard of about 200 coins was discovered by workmen building a new garage for the Shrewsbury Industrial Co-operative Society, near the G.P.O. Sorting Office in 1936. The find was reported in the *Shrewsbury Chronicle*, 28 February 1936 (p. 6). The coins 'were arranged in neat piles as though they had been closely stacked on a level bottom' about one yard below the surface, but 'the first blow of the pick shattered half of them to dust'. Seven coins were passed to the Shrewsbury Museum authorities, of which six now survive. Descriptions of these are as follows:

1 O. Ornament of crosses moline and pomme: +E—VE—RD.REX

R. Central cross, circle, etc., with perimeter of pellets: VVLFHE/ARD MO

Unworn; broken in four pieces. A counterpart with the same design and moneyer's name is found in the coinage of Archbishop Plegmund. G. C. Brooke, *Eng. Coins from the Seventh Cent. to the Present Day* (3rd edn., 1950), 54; no. I,2. (Wulfheard)

2 O. Royal bust to left: +EADVVEARD REX

R. Crosses and pellets: VVLF/RED MO

Slightly worn; broken in two pieces. Brooke, op. cit. 55; no. II,12. (Wulfred)

3 O. Small cross: +EA—VEARD REX

R. Central cross, pellets: HAÐE/BALD

Unworn; diameter: 20.4 mm. Brooke, op. cit. 55; no. II,13. (Hathebald)

⁶⁰Adamnan, *Arculf's Narrative about the Holy Places* (Libr. of the Palestine Pilgrims' Texts Soc. iii; 1897). Arculf, a visitor to Iona, used a wax tablet to sketch plans of Palestinian churches.

⁶¹But notice the description of the 'bronze bodkin' found at the station: E 15. That too may have been a styliform pin.

⁶²Inf. from S. Warren.

⁶³R. Tylecote, *Metallurgy in Archaeology* (1962), 57.

4 O. Small cross: +—VVEARD REX

R. Crosses and pellets: ADEL/VLF MO

Unworn; diameter: 20.4 mm. Brooke, op. cit. 55; no. II,13 (Aethelwulf)

5 O. Small cross. —DVVEARD.RE—

R. Crosses and pellets. —AEGEN/VLF MO

Unworn; broken in two pieces. Brooke, op. cit. 55; no. II,13 (Raegenwulf)

6 O. Small cross. + —ADVVEARD.—EX

R. Crosses and pellets. RAEGEN/VLF MO

Unworn; broken in three pieces. Brooke, op. cit. 55; no. II,13 (Raegenwulf)

The coins are heavily repaired with gum and sealed in glass. Within these limitations an estimated diameter of 20.4 mm. was found for the two complete coins (3 and 4). Weights were not taken.

The coins are issues of Edward the Elder (899–925). The relatively spread flans argue for a striking towards the end of the reign,⁶⁴ and this is not inconsistent with the recently revised date for the death of Archbishop Plegmund (cf.No. 1) of 923.⁶⁵ Coins were being struck from a Shrewsbury mint in the following reign, but are not represented in this random selection from the hoard. The coins are mainly unworn. A deposition date c. 920 is therefore suggested.

⁶⁴M. Dolley, 'Towards a revision of the internal chronology of the coinage of Edw. the Elder and Plegmund', *Anglo-Saxon Eng.* iii (1974), 175–7.

⁶⁵*Ibid.*

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Abbreviations

| | | |
|------------------------|----|---|
| <i>Ant. J.</i> | .. | <i>Antiquaries Jnl.</i> |
| <i>Arch. J.</i> | .. | <i>Archaeological Jnl.</i> |
| BM | .. | British Museum |
| CNC | .. | Caradoc newspaper cuttings: a collection of cuttings from (mainly local) newspapers and journals, deposited in SPL by the Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club. |
| NS | .. | New Series |
| OD | .. | Ordnance Datum |
| OS No. | .. | Ordnance Survey antiquity number: the description of the antiquity is held in a card index by the Ordnance Survey at Southampton; SPL has copies of the Shropshire cards. Almost all the numbers cited in this article should be prefixed SJ 41 SE; a few, however, relate to adjacent sheets, identifiable from the grid references. |
| PPS | .. | <i>Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society</i> |
| <i>Proc. Soc. Ant.</i> | .. | <i>Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries</i> |
| S | .. | Series |
| SAS | .. | Shropshire Archaeological Society |
| SAU | .. | Shrewsbury Archaeological Unit (1974–5) |
| SBM | .. | Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Museums |
| SMAR | .. | Shrewsbury Museums Acquisition Register |
| SNL | .. | <i>Shropshire News Letter</i> (1957–74) |
| SNQ | .. | <i>Shropshire Notes & Queries</i> , reprinted from the <i>Shrewsbury Chronicle</i> 1884–1924 |
| SPL | .. | Shrewsbury Public Library |
| SSP | .. | <i>Salopian Shreds and Patches</i> : 10 vols. (Shrews. 1874–91) reprinted from <i>Eddowes's Shrewsbury Jnl.</i> |

Abbreviations—continued.

- TCSVFC .. *Transactions of the Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club*
 TSAS .. *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society*
 WEMRAC .. *West Midland Rescue Archaeology Committee* (1973–7)
 WMANS .. *West Midlands Archaeological News Sheet*

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